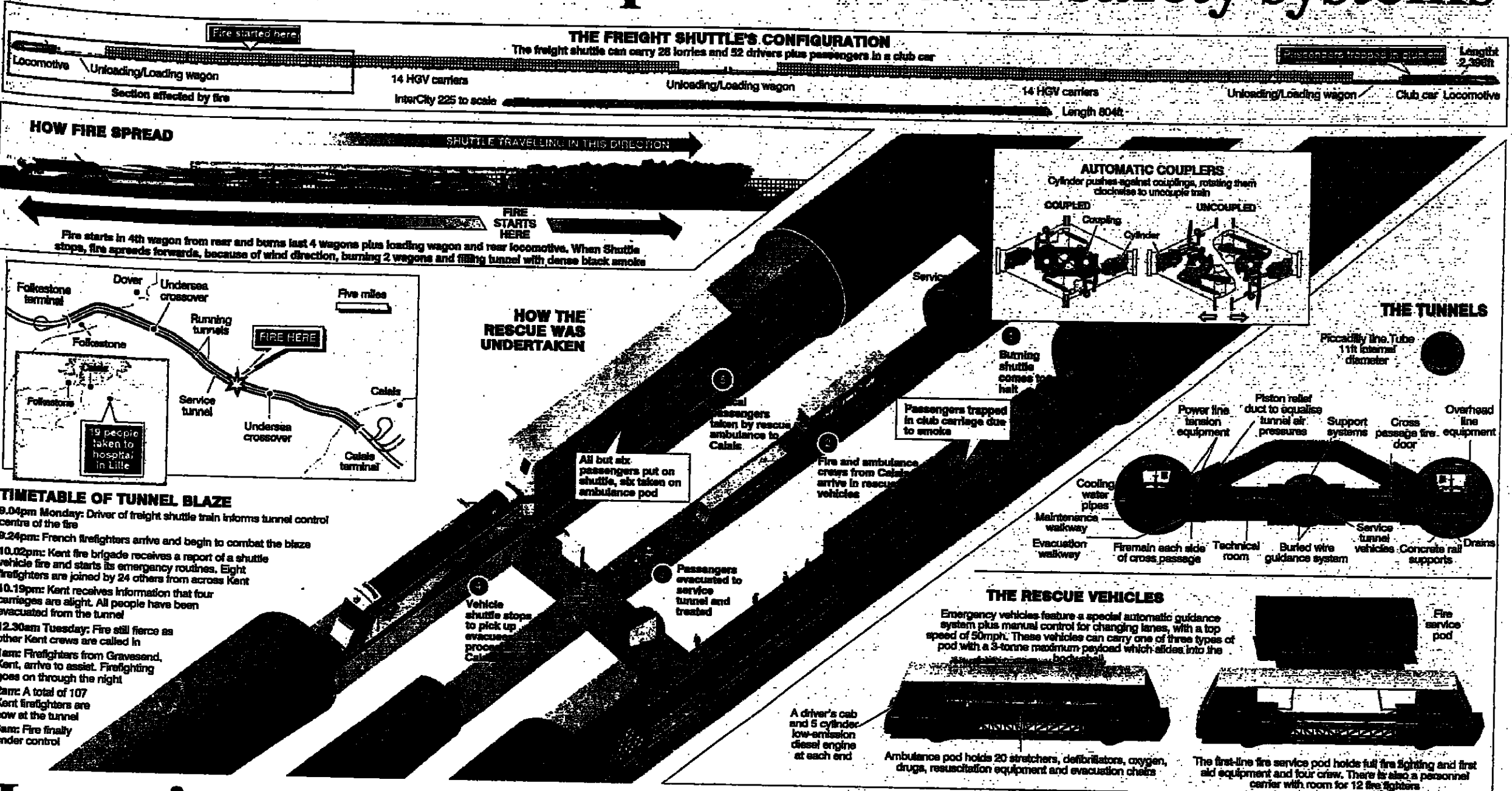


Experts claim multiple failures in safety systems



Investigators study three black boxes for accident clues

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND JOANNA BAILE

INQUIRY

FRENCH accident investigators were last night studying data from three "black box" computers recovered from the Channel Tunnel freight train engulfed by flames on Monday night.

The boxes, taken from the undamaged front locomotive, should explain why the blazing train stopped in the tunnel and why advanced safety systems designed to protect passengers from smoke and toxic fumes failed to work.

The black boxes record all conversations between the driver and the control rooms at Calais and Folkestone, signal authorisations through the tunnel and fault indicators from instruments such as fire detectors. Boxes from the rear fire-damaged locomotive have not been recovered and may be too badly burnt to yield much information.

Investigations yesterday centred on the reasons why the decoupling mechanism failed to allow passengers and crew in the front locomotive and carriage to drive away, leaving the blazing carriages behind. There was also concern that tunnel ventilation systems failed to create a pocket of clean air around the stranded locomotive and lorry driver compartment, leaving those on board gasping in choking fumes.

Safety experts said there had been "multiple failures"

in the systems Eurotunnel had put in place to persuade the Anglo-French Channel Tunnel Safety Authority to grant the company a licence.

The Channel freight trains are designed to allow a swift getaway from the scene of a fire by the front locomotive and "club car" — the carriage where lorry drivers spend the half-hour crossing — immediately behind it. In the event of a fire on a freight wagon, the driver is supposed to press a button in the cab activating a hydraulically powered decoupler. This allows the locomotive and club car to drive away from the blaze in an "escape capsule", leaving behind the burning freight wagons, which have no fire extinguishers on board.

Georges Shazos, group managing director for Eurotunnel, said a power failure caused by the fire stopped the decoupling system from working. "We lost power. Our inquiry will give us the exact details as to why this happened."

One theory is that the rear locomotive was so badly damaged that there was not enough power available to activate the decoupler. Alternatively, the decoupling may have taken place but damage to the overhead power lines meant the front locomotive could not be driven forward.

However, even with the

train stranded in the tunnel, those on board should have been protected from the smoke by the computer-operated ventilation system. This is triggered by sensors placed every 100 metres along the wall of the tunnel that continuously analyses the air for signs of smoke.

The system overrides the normal circulation of air — in the same direction of travel as the train — and pumps fresh air into the section of the tunnel nearest the passengers from the service tunnel. At the same time, giant fans are supposed to blow the smoke away.

Arne Leva, a Eurotunnel spokeswoman, insisted that the system had worked but said the doors to the club car had been opened by a steward before it had a chance to disperse the smoke. "Had the steward waited a few seconds more, more smoke would have cleared," she said.

The shortfalls have raised fresh concerns about the safety of the half-mile lattice-sided freight trains. They have been criticised by safety groups for not offering enough protection against the spread of fire. The wagons have girders on each side to keep the weight down and do not have internal doors, allowing fires to spread rapidly. Enclosed wagons, which are used for passenger services, would have been too heavy for the trains' axles to bear when loaded with fully laden lorries.

Bill Dix, the commercial director of Eurotunnel, said that the company would have no choice but to replace the freight trains if their design proved to be a factor in the rapid spread of the fire. In 1992 Eurotunnel fought a long battle with the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority before being allowed to use the Canadian-built trains. Fires in tunnels are difficult to put out because the enclosed space means that heat cannot be dissipated and temperatures often exceed 1,000C.



A lattice-sided Channel Tunnel freight train

Eurotunnel will review risks

By NICK NUTTALL

DAINGER LOADS

RICHARD MORRIS, the former safety chief at Eurotunnel and now a director, said that the company would review the list of hazardous substances and materials allowed in the Channel Tunnel.

Nearly 1,000 hazardous substances are already banned or restricted. There was speculation yesterday that a cargo of polystyrene combusted spontaneously, triggering the blaze.

Mr Morris said that if this proved to be the culprit, the company might review carrying it as a cargo. He rejected

suggestions that commerce was being put before safety.

Nuclear waste and highly flammable substances are banned from the tunnel. Whisky, paint and some other hazardous and flammable materials are carried in restricted quantities.

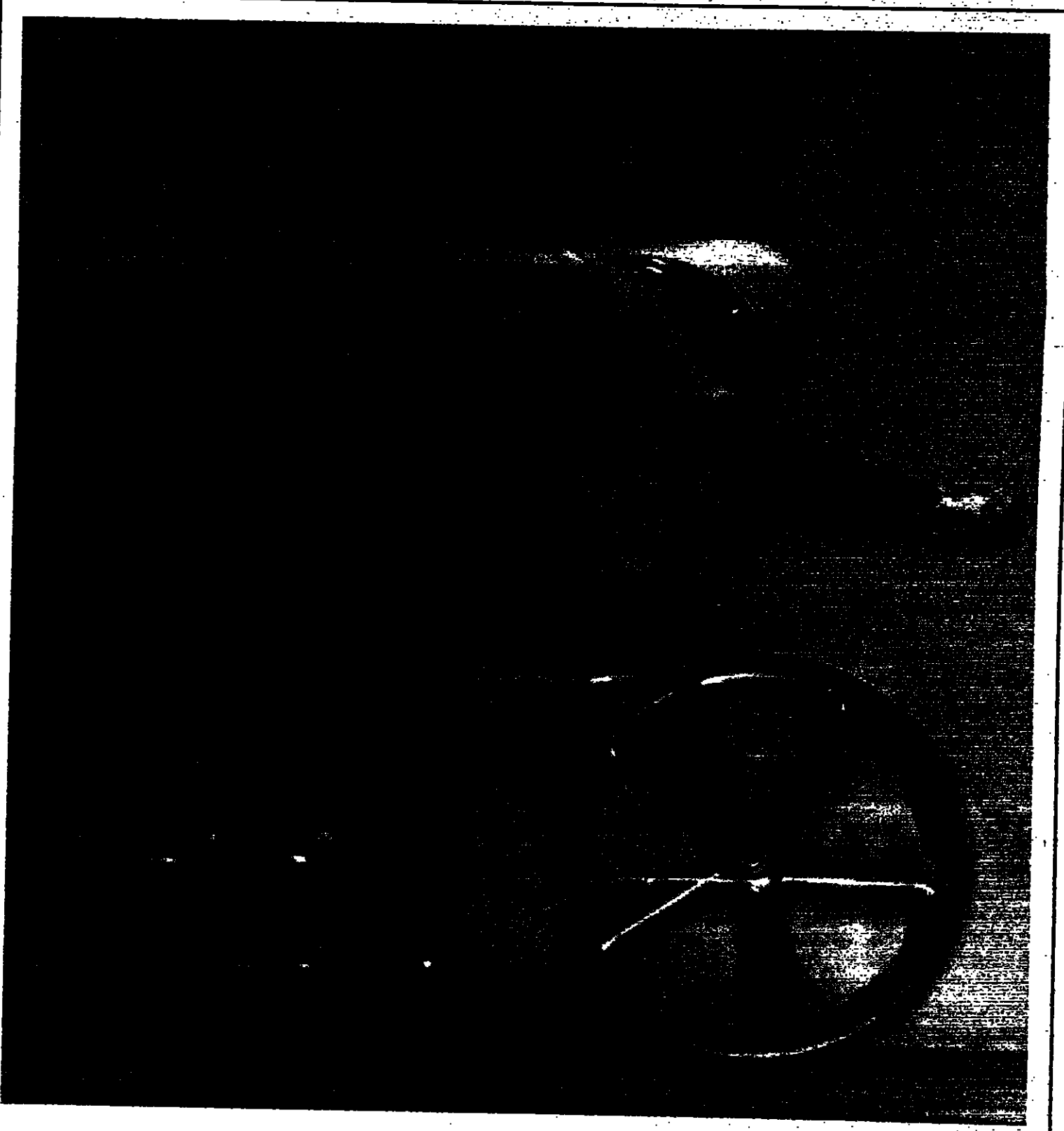
David Mathews, national health and safety officer of the Fire Brigade Union, said an urgent review of the kinds of hazardous substances carried would be welcome. A whole range of them were allowed through the tunnel, he said.

A review of the wagons that

carry freight was also needed, he said. The existing wagons, which have lattice-like walls and roofs rather than being solid, made it difficult to control a blaze and to stop it spreading to other wagons.

Eurotunnel has drafted a manual for hauliers that spells out which hazardous substances are welcome, restricted or banned. Goods vehicles face spot checks to see if they are carrying undeclared hazardous loads.

The Freight Transport Association said last night that the rules had been drawn up in consultation with its members. "I believe we have the right balance."



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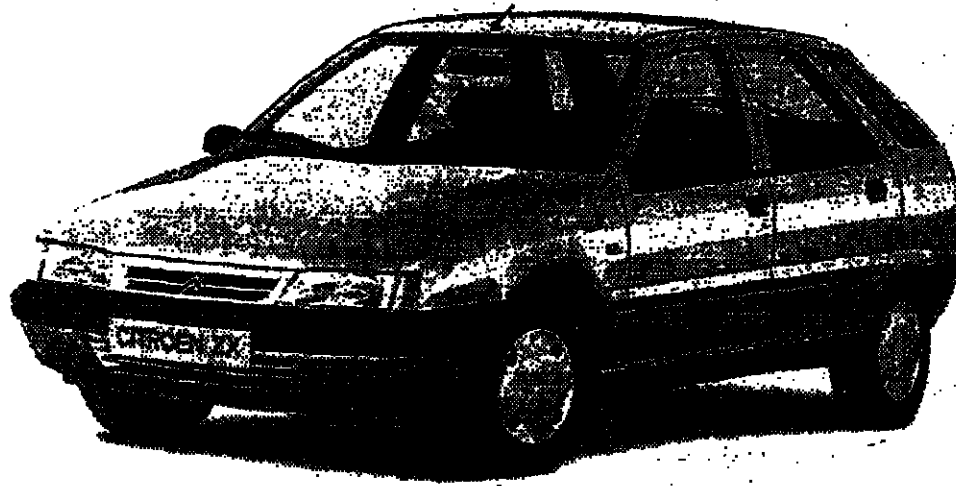
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034

Melly wins fire fight for bedsit artist

Landlord to pay for burnt works

By PAUL WILKINSON

A STRUGGLING artist who could not pay the rent on his bedsit lost six years' work when his landlord made a bonfire of his paintings. Yesterday, however, after the jazz singer and art critic George Melly compared Craig Richards' work to that of Picasso, a judge ordered the landlord to pay him more than £22,000 in compensation.

Leeds County Court had been told that Mr Richards, 33, had given up college at 19 to devote his life to surrealist art. He formed a movement with another artist called the Non-Euclidean.

Mr Melly, who had travelled more than 300 miles to speak for Mr Richards, told the court: "I am very impressed with his work. I realise he is not yet selling much but van Gogh only sold one of his paintings in his lifetime and I don't see Craig cutting off his ear just yet."

If Picasso's landlord had come in and decided to burn his studio, millions of pounds' worth of art would have been lost. I am not making silly parallels. Craig in my opinion is that good." Mr Melly, who wore a bright purple suit for the occasion, said: "What his landlord did was an act of mindless vandalism and I find it sickening."

Judge Bellamy had been told that Mr Richards was on the point of a nervous break-

down after his landlord, Mohammed Razaq, the owner of the property where he lived in Leeds, had burnt his paintings. Mr Richards, who now lives in Robin Hood's Bay, north Yorkshire, and was suing Mr Razaq for damages, said: "I've sold about 300 paintings in my 14-year career. The loss of my work has put me back five years. No one has the right to destroy my work."

He had worked in his bedsit, producing countless works and a book of poetry, most of which he had left behind when he went on tour in Europe with a pop group. He had left a note for Mr Razaq saying that he would settle the rent on his return. But when he came back he found the locks changed and his belongings gone.

Judge Bellamy said: "He has essentially had the stuffing knocked out of him. He did have an emotional illness. This affected his ability to work. On the basis of this, I award £2,000. The sketches were an essential part of Mr Richards' work and it seems straightforward to allow £10 per hour for the 1,423 hours he put into the sketches. I am also allowing £150 for the 21 nights that Mr Richards was locked out of his flat."

"I have examined the evidence from Mr Melly. What-

over a layman's view would be, he is a man of wide experience in this area. He prepared a written report, which gives me no reason to change my opinion. Mr Richards' work is forceful and eloquent. Picasso's work would have had little value in 1900.



Craig Richards and George Melly, who described the destruction of the artist's work as vandalism

"He conceded the work of

the Non-Euclidean is not yet sought after, but he regarded the act of getting rid of the paintings as sickening. Mr Melly said in his report that 90 per cent of modern work did not affect him, but 10 per cent still excited him. Mr Richards was in this 10 per cent.

"I am satisfied on the basis of Mr Melly's evidence that Mr Richards' work will sell in the future. I therefore grant monetary compensation in this matter, the total judgment being £22,300. The award included £3,000 for aggravated and exemplary damages.

Gerry Heap, for Mr Razaq, had argued that it was impossible to put a price on the paintings. He said: "Why £10 per hour? Because George Melly says so?" He said it was unlikely many of the paintings would have sold. "On his own evidence he has sold very few. With the exception of Bury Art Gallery, who made him Painter of the Year 1995, and a long-distance bike rider who bought two of his paintings, he has not had much success."

Widow 'saw her stolen candelabra' in catalogue

By TIM JONES

THE elderly widow of a French viscount told the High Court yesterday that a pair of rare candelabra that were to have been sold at Sotheby's had been stolen from her chateau ten years ago.

Nicole De Preval, 80, is suing Adrian Alari, a London dealer, for the return of the candelabra, which she says have been in her family for 150 years. She says she recognised the pair, valued at £60,000, in a Sotheby's catalogue two years ago.

Mr Alari, who has a gallery in central London, claims he bought them legitimately in 1984 from a gallery in New York, paying £5,000. He contends that Mme De Preval is mistaken in her identification and refuses to hand them back to her.

Michael Gettleton, for Mme De Preval, said the marble and gilt bronzed set, which was "exceptional with a number of idiosyncratic features", was made by the sculptor Antoine-Louis Barye as a gift to her great-grandfather, a successful industrialist, for rescuing him from penury.

Mr Gettleton said Mr Alari's story was hard to believe, as the candelabras were unique. "It would be in the highest degree surprising if other candelabra of a similar type were made." He added that she could produce bills dating back to 1855 to prove ownership. The case continues.



Lange in love with role

Hollywood star fulfils her desire

AN OSCAR-WINNING actress has been lured to the London stage after she fell in love with a character "who enters in the throes of a nervous breakdown and goes downhill from there".

Jessica Lange, who won Oscars for her roles in *Blue Sky* and *Tootsie*, and who has had six Academy Award nominations, started rehearsals this week for the part of Blanche Du Bois in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. "I have never played a part that I liked more than this," she said. "I have never fallen in love with a character more than I did with Blanche."

Lange will make her West End debut in the role she played on Broadway, alongside Imogen Stubbs and Toby Stephens. Sir Peter Hall, who is directing the production, said: "It's a play I've always wanted to do. I think it's one of the masterpieces of the 20th century."

The London production opens on December 30 at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket.

Killer stabbed student 'to appease jealous boyfriend'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE killer of Rachael Lean wept as she told a jury yesterday how she stabbed the 18-year-old student to death on a woodland path. Maria Hnatiuk, 29, said the attack happened after her boyfriend said that Miss Lean "had to die".

She said that Ian Wells was jealous of her relationship with Miss Lean and said that if she "wanted any life at all, Rachael would have to be dead".

Miss Lean's estranged parents, Peter and Vanessa, listened in the public gallery as Hnatiuk told the jury at Norwich Crown Court that there was no forethought to her attack. Hnatiuk, who admits manslaughter but denies murder, said: "I pulled out the knife and started stabbing her in the back and she turned around and called out my name. I just carried on stabbing her." A few days before the attack, which was

carried out near the perimeter fence at RAF Coltishall in Norfolk on September 5 last year, the two women had gone to a nightclub in Norwich. Hnatiuk said Mr Wells, 32, then began complaining about her relationship with Miss Lean.

Hnatiuk said she telephoned Miss Lean and arranged to meet her at the RAF base. Hnatiuk caught a bus there and she and Miss Lean, of Buxton, Norfolk, chatted briefly outside the Naff building before walking off together. "She was saying about her father being in Bosnia and that she was worried about him. She didn't know what was happening with the relationship between her father and her mother, whether they were going to get back together or not."

The pair walked down a country lane and then turned to walk back. Hnatiuk said: "It kept going around in my

mind about what Ian had been saying to me about she has to be dead and if she is not dead you can't carry on and you are going to have nothing." Hnatiuk said she dragged Miss Lean's body behind a tree after the attack and covered her with undergrowth. She said Miss Lean's leggings had come down while she dragged the body along the ground. The trial continues.

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Inspectors praise school at bottom of GCSE league

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE bottom school in today's national examination league tables was praised by inspectors, who said that standards were rising even though no pupil has ever gained five high-grade GCSEs.

Parkside School in Plymouth opened in 1993 after the merger of two schools that between them did not have a single pupil who had passed five good GCSEs. Since then it has failed to register on the five-pass scale and is the only comprehensive school in England with a zero score this year.

Yet, while more than 200 schools have failed inspections by the Office for Standards in Education, Parkside was found to "provide an education of good quality". When inspectors visited the school a year after it opened, they judged more than 80 per cent of lessons to be satisfactory.

The official report of the inspection recorded that teaching was "generally good and in some cases very good". However, the inspectors noted: "The work of even the ablest and most enthusiastic pupils is frequently marred by the persistence of elementary errors of grammar, spelling and punctuation and careless presentation."

Ofsted said yesterday that there were no plans for a full reinspection, although inspectors have been back to check on the school's progress. Parkside's examination and



Tony Darby, head of Banovallum School, whose GCSE scores improved most

truancy records had ensured that it joined the 8 per cent of schools classified as having "serious weaknesses".

Simon Jenkin, Devon's chief education officer, said yesterday that the inspectors' findings showed that Parkside was not failing. "It is an improving school in which I have every confidence."

David Jamieson, the Labour MP for Plymouth, Devonport and a former head

teacher in the city, also came to Parkside's defence. He said that none of his constituents had ever complained about the school.

However, none of this year's 35 GCSE candidates passed five GCSEs at grade C or above. Ten left without any qualifications.

Almost two thirds of schools in today's tables improved their scores. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Em-

ployment Secretary, said that the publication of results was driving up standards. "This morning, thousands of teachers will be taking quiet satisfaction from the fact that their schools can be seen to have improved. Others, I hope, will be reflecting on the fact that they have not done so well — and will be planning to put things right," she said.

Nationally, 44.5 per cent of 16-year-olds passed five high-

grade GCSEs, a rise of one percentage point on last year. With the average A-level score also rising, pass rates increased for the fifth year in succession.

Almost 100 schools saw all their candidates pass the equivalent of five O levels. Three schools tied for the best A-level score: St Swithun's School in Winchester; King Edward VI High School for Girls; and King Edward's School, both in Birmingham.

The tables show spectacular improvements at some schools. The biggest leap in GCSE scores came at Banovallum School in Herefordshire, Lincolnshire, which takes those who fail to win a place at the neighbouring Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. This year 39 per cent of its GCSE candidates secured five good passes, compared with 11 per cent in 1995.

Peter Killfoyle, Labour's education spokesman, said: "Today's league tables do show some improvement, and I congratulate the schools, teachers and local education authorities that have contributed to that improvement. However, we are still well behind where we should be to meet our own targets, let alone match the standards achieved by our international competitors."

A 24-page Schools Report supplement to today's edition of *The Times* gives the GCSE and A-level results of more than 5,000 schools and colleges in England and Wales.

Selection deal to settle Boat Race troubled waters

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD and Cambridge universities are poised to end 168 years of a gentleman's agreement by accepting a formal accord on eligibility for the Boat Race.

The recruitment of outstanding oarsmen, which triggered the 1987 Oxford mutiny featured in the film *True Blue*, has become increasingly contentious since Cambridge, winner of the past four races, introduced rowing bursaries in 1994.

Negotiations between the two universities started after Dan Topolski, Oxford's director of coaching, described these payments last April as "an irritant because it's taking the Boat Race perhaps in a direction it shouldn't go".

Steve Royle, Oxford's director of rowing, said yesterday: "The negotiations are going well. Both sides have decided it needs to be resolved. We are hoping to achieve a level playing field. We are laying down an agreement that both clubs will honour."

In the past it has been a gentleman's agreement. This is not suggesting that we are no longer gentlemen but we have to be a little bit more professional because we have sponsors and a massive audience now." The 1996 race attracted 6.5 million television viewers in Britain, the same as most Five Nations Rugby Union internationals. It was also screened in 160 other countries.

Only one Cambridge oars-

man, Ethan Ayer, the American club president and at 6ft 8½ins the tallest man to row in the race, has a bursary this year. Up to £6,000, raised by old Blues, can be available annually for an applicant, although the university has always pointed out that normal academic standards have to be met. The Oxford boat club does not offer bursaries.


The eligibility rules will also cover students doing short-term courses. Both universities are offering an increasing number of one-year postgraduate diplomas. The European Union has set up the Erasmus scholarships, in which an undergraduate from a member country can receive funding for doing a single term in any university in another EU country. An outstanding foreign oarsman could be recruited just for the Lent term to row in the Boat Race.

Topolski, the most successful Oxford coach and the man at the centre of the 1987 mutiny, said yesterday: "The representatives of the universities are friends who are interested in the same thing — a marvellous event. However, everything has got out of hand. We must be clear in our minds what we all want."


Dr John Marks, the senior treasurer to the Cambridge University Boat Club, said: "We are close to getting a joint understanding."

Leading article, page 21

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



THE NEW KENNEDYS
James Bone on the couple who could revive Kennedy glamour



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Universities shut as dons join porters in strike over pay deal

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITY and college staff, from porters to professors, signed the first general strike in the new British higher education system yesterday.

Unions said that the action was supported by 100,000 members and said that up to 150 institutions were paralysed by their protest over a 1.5

per cent pay offer. There were picket lines at many universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and a shutdown of universities in Wales.

Vice-chancellors called the action misdirected. Diana Warwick, chief executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said the staff should support its lobbying of ministers for a reversal of last year's 2.1 per cent funding cut for higher educa-

tion. The committee has delayed until after the Budget a decision on whether to charge all new students in 1997 a £300 joining fee to make up some of the shortfall.

Steve Rouse, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association, said he saw little prospect of a revised offer. "Without additional funding there cannot be a change in the offer."

The National Union of Students supported the strike, which was backed in a vote by 97 out of 103 college unions. Some university services were opened for students by a skeleton staff, although it was the skeleton of British higher education which was presented to the headquarters of the vice-chancellors' committee in London by striking dons.

The strike will be followed by a "work to contract" campaign in which employees will refuse to co-operate outside their official hours.

Simon Jenkins, page 20

SEE PAGE 48 FOR HOTEL OFFER AND FREE TICKET APPLICATION FORM



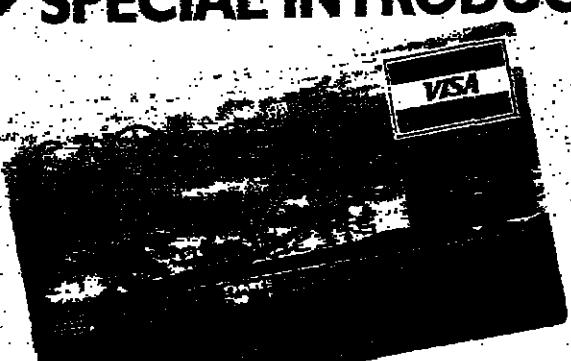
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PEOPLES PHONE

Reynolds wins libel case but faces £1m legal bill

By A STAFF REPORTER

ALBERT REYNOLDS, the former Irish Prime Minister, is out of pocket to the tune of £1 million, despite winning a libel action against *The Sunday Times* yesterday.

The jury found in his favour but awarded him no damages. Unbeknown to them, he had already refused a payment into court of £5,000 by the newspaper. That decision makes him liable to pay the costs of the litigation, which involved three leading QCs, after the date of the payment. The costs are estimated unofficially at more than £1 million.

Mr Reynolds, 64, who had been accused by *The Sunday Times* of lying to the Dail, showed no emotion at the jury's verdict, which came after 18 hours' deliberation. He said at the end of the 24-day hearing at the High Court in London: "I took this case to clear my good name and uphold my reputation. I am pleased that the jury agreed that I am not a liar. Anyone who calls me a liar will have to prove it."

Asked if he thought that the costs made the action worthwhile, he replied: "There is a price to be paid for the truth and I was prepared to pay that price. But however much must be paid remains to be seen." When it was suggested he might have been better off accepting the £5,000 offer, he replied: "That is an insult."

Mr Reynolds had sued over a report in November 1994 headed "Goodbye, gombeen man. Why a fib too far proved fatal". He said it was a "horrible, vicious, vilifying article which it was unnecessary to write".

The newspaper said that he did not give the full facts when he defended Harry Whelehan — then recently promoted from Attorney-General to



Albert Reynolds outside the High Court yesterday

President of the High Court — against criticism for delays in extraditing Brendan Smyth, a paedophile priest. Mr Whelehan's explanation that he had not seen the file or been told about it, and that it was a complex issue with no precedent, was all he knew when he first addressed the Dail, Mr Reynolds said. He did not get clear advice

from his new Attorney-General, Eoghan Fitzsimons, about a replica case that Mr Whelehan had previously dealt with until that night, and that was conveyed to the Dail the next day. He denied deceiving his Labour coalition partner, Dick Spring, and some of his colleagues about his state of knowledge. The newspaper denied libel.

pleading qualified privilege and justification. It argued that Mr Reynolds knew enough the day before he spoke to the Dail to form the view that Mr Whelehan should not be sworn in as President of the High Court. Mr Reynolds said in evidence that he felt "just absolutely dreadful" when he read the story. "A liar: I don't know of any worse thing people could say of me."

His counsel, Lord Williams, QC, said Mr Reynolds would "deny and deny and deny again" that he lied to the Dail. Mr Reynolds was not a lawyer and had relied on others for definitive advice.

Lord Williams said *The Sunday Times* had done a "monstrous thing" in printing the article, which, he said, contained the offensive epithet "gombeen man", which the newspaper interpreted as "the local fixer with a finger in every pie".

He said that the newspaper had "mugged" Mr Reynolds with a "knife" belonging to Fergus Finlay, Mr Spring's aide, who was a source for the article. He suggested that Mr Reynolds be awarded damages of £45,000 as an "absolute base minimum".

James Price, QC, for the newspaper, which said that its story was full and accurate, portrayed Mr Reynolds as a gambler with a "streak of recklessness". He went on:

"Does Mr Reynolds take responsibility for what he does? Or does he blame others — the Eoghan Fitzsimonses — honest men, distinguished men, going about their job in difficult circumstances?"

He told the jury that any damages award should be very small, akin to the sum of £3,000 Mr Reynolds would have received if he had been physically mugged and had his jaw broken.

Keen racegoer had made £150,000 on winning streak in the courts

By AUDREY MAGEE IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A REGULAR at Cheltenham races, Albert Reynolds has both won and lost in his latest courtroom gamble. Victory has come at a hefty price, even for a rich man.

He is a director of Irish and international companies and earns up to £18,000 for each lecture on the international circuit discussing his role in bringing about the 18-month IRA ceasefire which began in August 1994.

Mr Reynolds, 64, Prime Minister until the coalition Government collapsed two years ago, is very defensive of his public reputation. He regularly has solicitors' letters sent to journalists writing about him and his family. Before the case against *The Sunday Times*, he had successfully challenged four newspapers, other publications and broadcasters for libel on five occasions. He has received

about £150,000 in damages. Five years ago, he won £70,000 from *The Sunday Times*; he has twice taken action against the *Irish Times*, which paid about £50,000; he has received £10,000 from the publishers of *The Guinness Book of Political Blunders*; and, while in court in London, Mr Reynolds received £20,000 from Radio Tara, based in Co Meath and broadcasting to the United Kingdom. He recently bought a house on one of Dublin's most select streets for about £600,000. Dubliners have dubbed it "Litigation Lodge".

His case against *The Sunday Times* received widespread coverage in the Irish media. People anxiously awaited the verdict, but bookmakers decided not to take bets because there were too many possible outcomes.

Born in Roosky, Co Roscommon, in 1932, Mr Reynolds is married with five daughters and two sons. More a

businessman than a politician, he sees everything as a deal open to negotiation.

In business, his strategy helped to create a highly profitable family enterprise, C&D Foods in Longford. Mr Reynolds's home town, makes pet food for companies such as Sainsbury's. He also has directorships in China, Strategic Holdings, a Hong Kong-based company which owns a majority interest in some 140 Chinese companies.

But whether this strategy worked in politics has left opinion divided. He is greatly praised for his success on the Northern Ireland question, but damned for his treatment of domestic affairs.

Within minutes of the verdict reaching Ireland, his supporters complained that it was impossible for an Irishman to receive a fair trial in London. Callers to RTE radio said the verdict was typical of British justice: Mr Reynolds was innocent but he still had to foot the bill.

Church may buy brewery shares to fight teen drinks

By RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is considering relaxing its century-old ban on investing in the brewery and distillery trades, so that it can exert more influence against under-age drinking.

Clergy are concerned over the burgeoning trade in low-alcohol lemonades and other drinks, known as alcopops, which many fear are encouraging youngsters to drink to excess. In a report to be debated by the General Synod next summer, the ethical investment group of the Church Commissioners, who manage the Church's assets, recommends a selective easing of the ban. They suggest that it be lifted in the case of brewing and distilling sectors of companies that derive "significant turnover" from other activities.

The report, which has been given a cautious welcome by bishops, says: "This would allow the Church, as an investor, to make a positive contribution to the issues being debated within the industry." The investors are



Harries supports easing 100-year investment ban

keen "to have dialogue with companies about their policies in respect of excessive consumption and advertising, particularly that directed at the young".

But the group, chaired by Sir Michael Colman, the First Church Estates Commissioner, advised against bingo being allowed at a new leisure site on the commissioners' former agricultural land at Cheshire Oaks. Last year the group recommended that the Church should withdraw its investments in BSKV. The Right Rev Richard

Harries, the Bishop of Oxford, who once sued the commissioners over their ethical investment policy because he felt they were not accountable enough, said he supported easing the breweries ban. Bishop Harries, a patron of the Christian Ethical Investment Group, a separate body from that responsible for the report, said: "As a person who enjoys their drink, I have always felt it is slightly illogical to have a ban on the breweries section. Breweries have moved much more into the whole entertainments business. And if the Church is in that sector, it might be able to do more to stop under-age drinking."

Church leaders are concerned that any relaxation should not be misinterpreted as endorsing alcohol consumption. Investing in breweries and distilleries has been prohibited since 1943, when the commissioners began investing in equities. The policy is also followed by the Church's Board of Finance and its pensions board. Other banned investments include gambling, armaments, tobacco and newspapers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman referee charged

A woman referee who showered with male players has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Football Association. Janet Fewings, 41, of Exeter, said she was forced to use the same showers at some games because of a lack of facilities.

After reports that she was upsetting girlfriends and wives, she was banned from the touchline by the FA.

Dog owner hurt

A woman suffered serious head injuries after being hit by a car as she cradled her dead dog, itself run over by a car, in Clifton, Greater Manchester. The driver who struck Debbie Pritchard, 28, did not stop. A man was later arrested.

Blackmail plot

A teenager admitted conspiring with a manager at Rampton high-security hospital to blackmail the clients of prostitutes, Gemma Nolan, 19, from Nottingham, was remanded in custody at the city's Crown Court.

Tube accident

A woman's head was hit by a Tube train, breaking its window, as she leant over the platform at Oxford Circus to watch mice on the track. The 24-year-old from Raynes Park, southwest London, has a suspected broken neck.

Monster award

The Millennium Commission is giving £1.1 million to a project to display a collection of thousands of dinosaur fossils on the Isle of Wight. The census will open in Sandown in 1999 and aims to attract 230,000 visitors a year.

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Rustlers gobble up turkeys

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TURKEY farmers have been warned to look out for rustlers eager to exploit high prices caused by a shortage of farm-fresh birds for Christmas.

Hundreds of birds have been stolen from farms in the West Country, where Devon and Cornwall police have stepped up patrols at turkey farms and urged farmers to tighten security. Consumption

of turkey has surged this year with consumers switching to alternative meats after fears over "mad cow" disease.

Paul Cooper, a National Farmers' Union poultry specialist, said: "We always get some rustling, but this year the birds are fetching up to £50 each and offer particularly attractive pickings for thieves."

The biggest robbery recorded so far was at a farm near Creddon, Devon, which lost about 300 birds between six

and eight weeks old during a night raid in September. Andrew Gray, assistant manager at Elston Farm, said: "We have had to spend £600 on a security system. I slept with the turkeys for several nights until the system was up and running."

Farm-fresh turkeys for the catering trade are fetching about £1 a lb, 20 per cent up on last year, while birds are selling to butchers at £1.48 a lb, about 10 per cent up.

صكنا من الالاهل

Two drivers as blizzards roads and... Medical hotline... Believe 999 system... We won't miss out of a...

صباح الخير

Two drivers killed as blizzards shut roads and schools

By KATHY KNIGHT

TWO people died yesterday as blizzards swept much of the country, blocking roads, closing schools and leaving thousands of homes without power.

Heavy snowfalls brought a spate of road accidents and general traffic misery. Motoring organisations advised drivers to stay at home unless their journey was essential.

Up to 20,000 homes blacked-out across North Wales after power lines were cut in the blizzards were likely to remain without electricity until early today because of the volume of repair work.

Drifts 8ft deep were reported in the worst-hit areas and all trans-Pennine roads were closed, except the M62. Scores of minor accidents were reported as motorists struggled to work. Others abandoned their vehicles. Breakdown and rescue services were inundated with calls.

A lorry driver died in Staffordshire in an accident on the snowbound M6. His body was found crushed under one of the vehicles. Drivers of two other heavy goods vehicles were seriously injured, and 50 sheep tipped onto the carriageway from one of the trucks were killed. Rescue services spent almost an hour releasing the drivers.

An RAF mountain rescue team was put on standby at its base in Stafford to help police and ambulance teams called to stranded vehicles.

The driver of a stolen car was killed in Shropshire when he crashed while being pursued by police at up to 70 mph as snow fell. The thief, still to be identified, died on the A458 Welshpool to Shrewsbury road after ignoring an instruction to stop. In worsening weather, he was pursued through Shrewsbury before the car mounted the pavement and hit a lamppost.

Among the areas to suffer the worst of the early cold snap yesterday were mid and North Wales, the north Midlands and the Pennines. Forecasters said more snow was expected before rain today.

Foul weather caused "a virtual traffic gridlock" in parts of Denbighshire, Flintshire and the Wrexham area. Up to seven inches of snow hit stretches of the main A55 coastal route. A rest centre was set up for about 50 stranded drivers at St Asaph, Denbighshire. Dozens of rural schools were forced to shut.

Electricity board officials drafted in teams of extra engineers but were unable to use helicopters because of poor visibility. "Heavy snow has brought down several lines to ground level. Severe icing is also affecting the system. We are working flat out on repairs but, regrettably, quite a large number of customers will remain off overnight," said a spokeswoman.



Drivers may have struggled to cope with the wintry conditions yesterday but schoolchildren in Birmingham found time to enjoy the snow

In South Wales, more than 3,000 homes were blacked out. A spokesman for South Wales Electricity said: "Most of the problems have been caused by debris being blown into power lines. We are doing repairs as quickly as possible."

The A66 between Penrith, Cumbria, and Scotch Corner, North Yorkshire, was closed after a series of accidents. An ambulance on its way to one of the worst accidents, in which cars collided with three jackknifed lorries, skidded off the road and had to be righted by paramedics. Elsewhere, glass littered the road after an articulated lorry spilt its cargo

of bottled vinegar over the carriageway. A woman driver was taken to Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, but was not thought to be seriously injured.

In the Irish Sea, a Scottish fishing boat was towed into Larne harbour after her engine cut out in force eight

gales. The *Silvery Sea*, from Oban, got into difficulties six miles off the Antrim coast and had to be brought in by a tug from Belfast.

Torrential rain swept most of the South of England, making driving conditions hazardous, with some snow falling as far south as parts of

Kent. In Dorset, many minor roads were blocked by fallen trees.

Snow also affected parts of Scotland with the A90 between Dundee and Perth described by the AA as "treacherous".

Forecast, page 26

Medical hotline to relieve 999 system

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN ALTERNATIVE to the 999 telephone system for medical emergencies is to be introduced in parts of Britain next year to relieve pressure on overburdened operators.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said yesterday that the hotline number, which will vary depending on location, will operate alongside the 999 service and will be for people whose crises do not require hospital care. "It gives access to what is a virtual emergency service, wherever that may be," he said.

The free service would guide people to social services, mental health carers, dentists and chemists who could solve urgent problems at nights and weekends. Trained local advisers would also dispense health advice and tell people if they

should wait until morning before getting professional help.

The move is part of a widespread review, *Developing Emergency Services in the Community*. The aim is to reduce pressure on 999 operators, accident and emergency departments and general practitioners, the three services that people turn to immediately during most emergencies. The proposals include a public education programme encouraging the acquisition of first aid skills as a civic duty.

The speed of treatment at casualty wards is likely to be reduced. Instead of everybody being assessed immediately, as the Patient's Charter guarantees, people will be seen within 15 minutes of arrival. Non-urgent cases can at best expect to be treated within four hours.

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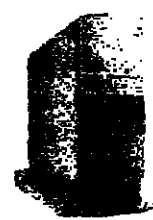


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Full horror of Nazi camp on British soil revealed

By COLIN SMITH

EVEN during the last week of the war Britain knew little of the horrors the Nazis had perpetrated on the Channel Island of Alderney, code-named Fortress Adolf by the Wehrmacht. It was here, on a midwinter's day, that a Russian prisoner was tied in a crucifix position at the gates of his camp and had cold water poured over him until he died.

Secret wartime files that will be available for inspection by the public at the Public Record Office at Kew in southeast London today reveal that it was only after the isolated garrison surrendered in May 1945 that German soldiers told their British interrogators of the cruelty that was perpetrated at the only concentration camp established on British soil.

An intelligence report dated March 1942, produced by

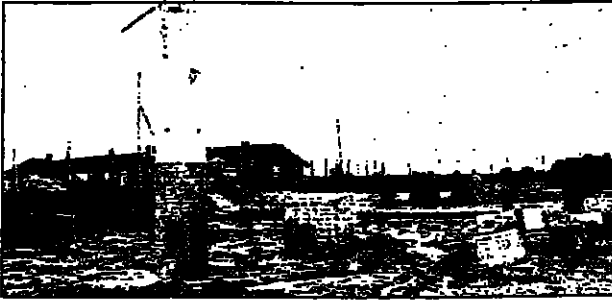
M119 — a wartime organisation that gathered intelligence from escaped prisoners and refugees — noted: "There is much less information on this island than either Guernsey and Jersey."

The reason for this intelligence blackout was simple. A steady trickle of escapees from Guernsey and Jersey used anything from fishing boats to canoes to get to England and, after the Normandy invasion, to France. At great personal risk they often brought with them the details of the German order of battle on the Channel Islands, plus sketches and maps of German fortifications.

Only Alderney, evacuated by all but a score of its 1,400 population when the Germans swept through France in the summer of 1940, remained a stubborn blank for providing intelligence. And the Germans were determined to keep it



Graves of Russian slave workers on Alderney, and the concentration camp that was destroyed by fleeing Nazis



that way. When in July 1944 the crew of a stricken RAF Lancaster bomber, trying to get back to England after a raid over France, bailed out and landed near a clump of rocks off the Alderney coast, no attempt was made to pick them up and bring them ashore. Instead, German sailors watched them through binoculars as they drowned.

"Kapitan Massman [the harbour commandant in Alderney] used to send us out to get an old box floating in the sea," Kriegsmarine Willie Paechlecke told his British interrogators at the prisoner-of-war holding centre at Kempton Park, Surrey, a month after the war ended. "But we watched these four or five parachutes come down and were never given the order to go out and rescue them."

German troops normally

behaved honourably towards downed enemy flyers and, in any case, air crew were normally prized for their intelligence value. Earlier in the war, two shot-down Spitfire pilots had been held prisoner in a local hotel then shipped to Guernsey and Jersey.

But by the summer of 1944, after four years of Nazi occupation, Alderney held too many dark secrets to risk the presence of live British airmen on its soil. A commando raid that in September 1942 plucked seven German sailors off the lighthouse on the Casquets reef six miles west of Alderney yielded little intelligence on events on the island. Part of the reason for this was that the officer in charge of the interrogation may have been distracted from seeking further information when he suddenly realised he had struck gold after one of the

prisoners confessed that his previous posting had been on a seashore rocket range used by scientists for the development of the Germans' V1.

By the time the Lancaster crew was left to drown, most of the slave labourers, at one time as many as 7,000, were either dead or had been sent back to Germany, where many veterans perished during the last weeks of the war. Werner Holme watched emaciated Russian prisoners being loaded on to a freighter called the *Xavier Dosch*. "In its hold these people were crowded together like herrings, without straw, beds or blankets," he told his British interrogators.

Most of the slave labour on the island was Russian or Ukrainian, but there were also French Jews, German political prisoners and Spanish republicans who had enlisted in the French Army after their defeat

by Franco, only to fall into German hands after the collapse of France in 1940.

The main reason for the delay in the release of the newly available files is that they have been in the hands of German prosecutors with a view to bringing some of Alderney's war criminals to court. But one glance at the names and descriptions given by captured Germans to their interrogators in the summer of 1945 shows how difficult the task of tracing their captors would have been half a century later. A typical description reads: "Spira — clean-shaven, brown hair, Horn, late 30s, tall and heavily built."

There is a list of the German firms that were involved in employing labour on Alderney. These include Deuba-Niermeyer and Wolfert and Goshell. However, most of these companies no longer exist.

Islanders outraged by wives who slept with Germans

By ROBIN YOUNG

NEWLY released papers about the German occupation of the Channel Islands show that people on Jersey and Guernsey were outraged by the extent to which local women cohabited with German soldiers. Intelligence reports supplied by islanders who had escaped, or who were rescued by Allied troops while on their way to prisons in Germany, describe the women as "Jerrybags" or "troop carriers".

"The behaviour of a great number of women had been

quite disgraceful," one informant reported. "There are many illegitimate children on the island born of German fathers. The Westway estate on Royal Parade is full of the little bastards."

Many of the mothers were said to be married to serving British soldiers and one with three children by her husband was reported to have had another three by German fathers during the occupation. The authorities on both islands had to subsidise the babies' upkeep, and there was great concern because island law did not allow divorce.

One information report suggested: "The local police are determined to turn a blind eye when the husbands return because murder will be done, and public opinion will, in general, approve."

The claims are made in Ministry of Defence papers released yesterday at the Public Record Office in Kew, west London. One report claimed that the birth rate on the islands was little changed, because German soldiers had replaced potential British fathers evacuated from the islands. There was praise though for one unnamed woman who, having contracted venereal disease from a German soldier, was said to have deliberately infected three other German soldiers in revenge before she was deported to France.

It was thought that the conduct of the women might have been even worse had the Germans not been supplied with a brothel, Maison Victor Hugo on Le Dica, was said to be staffed with 36 French prostitutes who received medical



Troops supervising the return of islanders to Alderney in January 1946. Most had been evacuated by 1940

checks twice a week and were run by French management under German control. The women were sent back to France three weeks after D-Day, allegedly because the Germans were frightened they would give away too many secrets.

A party of young Jersey men who escaped the island by canoe after unsuccessfully trying to form a resistance committee, and being discouraged by retired British army

officers, said that even after the D-Day landings in France the women quislings were "especially blind and maintaining their associations with Germans to the bitter end. Certain of them seemed to be making hay more assiduously than ever while the sun still shines for them."

The 1944 M119 report said the number of women of "all classes and families" who had "gone" with Germans was very high, with some informants suggesting that it was as many as seven out of ten, and that 800 or 900 German babies had been born since the occupation began. There were said to have been innumerable abortions, carried out at a standard rate of five guineas for a German father and three guineas for a local man. "Many of the mothers are women married to British serving soldiers," the informants said, adding: "The girls in Woolworth's and Boots probably know no better, and the manager of Boots, at least, has taken action already. His attention was drawn to the girls' behaviour quite early when he saw 'Boots for Bags' scrawled in chalk in the road before his shop. He sacked the lot."

The informants identified a Mrs Baudains as "the arch-female quisling" on Jersey. She was living with a German captain but was also notorious as an informer who frequently earned the standard £100 for information. By the time the reports were made she had already been beaten up and thrown through a plate-glass window in Union Street.

Other collaborators identified by the informants included Maureen Langlois of the

New Star Hotel, St Peter — "a Jerrybag of long standing"; Gloria Love, the mistress of Captain Zapineck, a German entertainment officer who had been killed in France, and after his death of Colonel Helder; Dulcie Hibbs, of Havre des Pas, who is said to have informed on her father because she was so enamoured; a Miss Cornish, "the Jersey mistress of Gestapo Chief Wolf"; Phyllis Rowden, who bore a Gestapo officer a child; and Miss Mourant, the bank manager's daughter, who was "friendly" with Doctor Pelz, the German agricultural officer.

Later reports suggested that

quarry guardian, a chemist called Le Poidevin, who served only Germans; Ernest L'Amey, a "pro-German dance band leader"; and Doctor Kirschner, Swiss proprietor of the Hotel Normandy in Dica, St Luke's, "a thoroughly disloyal fifth columnist".

The reliability of these accusations can be questioned since George Le Breuille, manager for the Country Gentlemen's Association, listed as a collaborator in one report, is later revealed to have been arrested by the German authorities for listening to the BBC and to have refused to collaborate with them, preferring to serve his prison sentence instead.

Similarly the Rev Pere Marie of St Thomas Church, St Helier, is accused by one group of informants of delivering pro-German sermons, while others say he only delivered sermons to Germans, not for them.

Other suspects included the President of the Chamber of Commerce, who had a German wife, a retired officer called Colonel West who attended a German officer's funeral; an electricity company employee said to spy for Germans on his rounds; and a former agent for Huntley and Palmer biscuits known as Herr von Cliff since he had become petrol controller on the island.

The informants also claimed that 400 to 500 Irish labourers on Jersey formed "a disreputable bloc well stuck into the black market". The Irishmen, the islanders reported, had hit upon the idea of cornering supplies of firewood and then selling boiling water at street corners for threepence (just over 1p) a pot.

Prisoners starved, beaten and worked to death

By COLIN SMITH

LIFE was steadily worn out of the slave labourers sent to Alderney by the Nazis. They were subject to the usual concentration-camp regimen of back-breaking labour, 12 hours a day, usually seven days a week.

Systematic brutality and starvation rations drove some so crazy with hunger that they dug up animal entrails buried behind the island's slaughterhouse. SS guards baited them by feeding their dogs with German Army rations in front of them.

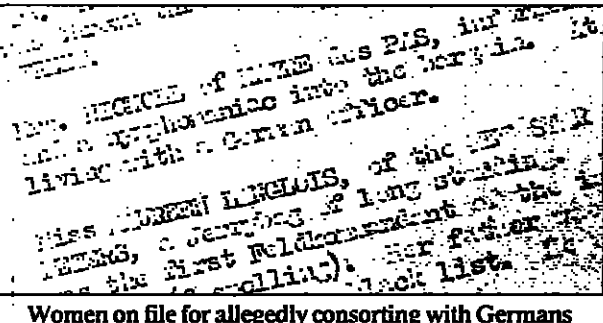
The most notorious camp was the SYLT camp for political prisoners, including Russian "defectors": Of the 1,600 Russians taken to the island as forced labour, at least half starved or were beaten to death.

A few of the German military personnel and civilian workers appeared to have disapproved deeply of what they saw and, according to their own testimonies, dared to intervene. Martin Keschner, a crane operator, left his cab when he saw a guard beating a Russian prisoner with a pickaxe handle. "I jumped down from the crane, got hold of him and said, 'If you hit a Russian again I will throw you into the water.'"

Johann Burbach, a German soldier interrogated by M119, said the prisoners were fed only hot water and cabbage leaves and the guards were able to make a handsome profit by selling food intended for the prisoners. Other Germans said that SS guards would get their bloodhounds to chase the prisoners to the camp perimeter, where they were shot by the sentries for trying to escape.

Grenadier Walter Schuller talked of reusable coffins. "In the summer of 1943, I was working not far away from the Russian cemetery and I witnessed the burial of a Russian. The grave was already dug. They got the coffin in it. There were bolts on the side. These were released and the corpse fell into the grave."

Another prisoner recalled how a French woman from Alsace, who was working on the island, discovered the body of a Russian who had become so weak that he had drowned in a shallow ditch.



Women on file for allegedly consorting with Germans



The M119 report which lists Jersey's quislings

the collaborators, once the prospect of Allied victory became more obvious, were "trying wholesale to get with loyal islanders". The same informants supplied lists of male collaborators, who included black marketeers, and islanders who had helped the German forces to requisition supplies.

Their lists included Mr Robert, a barber who would only cut German hair; George Romeril, a big cattle dealer turned black marketeer; George Dubamel, an employee of the States (island parliament), charged with commandeering motor transport for the Germans and "more zealous than his duty demands"; Alfred Thomasse, of Le Collon Hill, Grouville, armed by the Germans as a

Duke of Windsor's unpatriotic gaffes set embassy wires buzzing

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

EMBARRASSED concern among ministers about the wartime conduct of the Duke of Windsor will be disclosed next month when Foreign Office papers are released.

The documents include dispatches from British ambassadors informing the Foreign Office of the Duke's contacts and movements as he and the Duchess travelled from France to Spain and Portugal, then to the Bahamas and the United States.

Besides the official messages, the material to be released at the Public Record Office is expected to include letters from some ambassadors giving details of the Duke's indiscretions and remarks. There are also questions about his friendship with Axel Wenner-Gren, considered by the Americans to be a friend of Hermann Göring.

Foreign Office archivists have spent about a year com-

pling papers from the wartime period to the early 1950s. The trawl was prompted by a parliamentary question from Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, on whether the Foreign Office still held papers about the period. It is understood that 22 were found.

Philip Ziegler, who was appointed official historian to complete his biography of Edward VIII, is the only person outside the Government to have studied them. He used some in his book, including the fact that Samuel Hoare, the former Ambassador to Madrid, telegraphed London to urge the Government to contradict German propaganda that he and the Duke were carrying on negotiations for peace.

The Duke had apparently told a member of the American Embassy staff that "the most important thing now to be done was to end the war



The Duke was a friend of a friend of Göring

before thousands more were killed or maimed to save the faces of a few politicians," Mr Ziegler says in his book. "To think this in June 1940 was forgivable; to say it openly to a representative of a foreign, even if friendly power, was to say the least indiscreet."

But by the end of the

Windsor's stay in Madrid, Hoare was reporting to London that while they had stimulated German propaganda, the couple had otherwise done well. "So far from making any defeatist remarks, they went out of their way to show their belief in final victory."

Mr Mackinlay said yesterday: "These papers may reveal the extent of the Duke's dialogues through intermediaries with the Germans. Certainly whilst he was staying in the Iberian peninsula there was some evidence to suggest that he had such contacts after the fall of France and caused embarrassments both for his brother, George VI, and the Government throughout the period of the war."

"I welcome the release of these papers, but there is no reason why the events of this period were not disclosed before. There needs to be transparency about the conduct of all leading public figures during this period."

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Why won't Canada Government listen to electorates stop killing baby...

Recent surveys' focus Canadian public views

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Police will get new power to curb knife violence

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are to be given comprehensive stop-and-search powers to combat the carrying of knives and possession of drugs on the streets, under plans announced by Michael Howard yesterday.

The Home Secretary also proposed curbs on the advertising of knives under aggressive descriptions such as "The Vindicator" and "Rambo knife".

Mr Howard's surprise announcement that he wanted the police's stop-and-search powers extended came as part of the auction that has developed between the Government and Labour on pre-election law and order initiatives. Two weeks ago Mr Howard said that the police would get additional powers to stop anyone they believed to be a member of a gang known to carry weapons. Under his latest proposal, police would be allowed to stop and search people, without reasonable suspicion, within specified areas if they believed they were carrying knives or drugs. This would be authorised by a superintendent.

At present police can stop and search people without reasonable suspicion in a specified area for 24 hours if they believe there is a danger of serious violence.

Mr Howard said: "Extra stop and search powers for the police will tackle the real evil of people carrying knives in public without good reason."

Last night Frances Lawrence, who presented a mani-

festos for curbing violence after the murder of her husband, the headmaster Philip Lawrence, welcomed Mr Howard's proposals on extending stop-and-search powers in relation to knives. She told *The Times*: "I believe the Home Secretary's announcement is an advance. I am pleased. It really seems to me that Mr Howard is trying to move things forward."

Mr Howard outlined his proposals in a letter to Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and suggested they could provide the basis of a Private Member's Bill. Jimmy Wray, Labour MP for Glasgow Provan, came top in a

Criminals face risk of life ban from driving

CONVICTED criminals face a life driving ban as part of their sentence under a proposal announced by the Government yesterday, Richard Ford writes.

Thieves, burglars and other offenders could be banned regardless of whether their offences involved motor vehicles. The courts would have the power to impose life driving bans on any offender apart from those defaulters.

Michael Howard believes that criminals will be deterred by the threat of losing their driving licence. The power, introduced as an amendment to the Crime (Sentences) Bill,

ballot for backbenchers to be given the chance to pilot legislation through the Commons and has said that he might wish to act against knives. He said last night that although his Bill would deal with the marketing of knives, consultation would be needed on extending police stop-and-search powers in relation to knives. Mr Wray added that at a meeting with David Maclean, a junior Home Office Minister, it had been agreed that his Bill would not include extending powers to search for drugs.

The new offence of marketing a knife in a way that suggests an aggressive use for

would be tested, first with a pilot scheme. Motoring organisations criticised the plan when it was announced at the Tory party conference. The AA and RAC said that it would only add to the number of uninsured motorists on the roads.

Yesterday Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said: "Disqualifying non-motoring offenders from driving makes little sense. It will hamper offenders' rehabilitation, create further headaches for an overstretched police service and damage the interests of accident victims."

John Wadham, director of the pressure group Liberty, accused the Government of "bringing in by the back door" a measure that would mean many young people having no protection from arbitrary searching by the police.

The proposal for more powers to search for knives was welcomed by organisations representing all police ranks. David Phillips, secretary of the crime committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said: "It is important that police should have the power to search for weapons in the right circumstances."

it would apply both to its name and associated sales literature. Mr Howard admitted that the measure would not guarantee the prohibition of the sale of undesirable knives. "But it would stop them being called by unacceptable names or being accompanied by unacceptable language."

The new marketing offence would carry a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine.

The planned extension of police powers was condemned by civil liberties groups, which said last night that any town and particularly big cities could be subject to stop-and-search operations.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "This draconian measure, if used insensitively, will do nothing but create high levels of conflict between young people and the law."

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has given his full backing to any Army Board initiative to boost Army numbers and has supported the cash bonuses idea. "If you have already trained people, if they are performing at their peak, to encourage them with money to stay on is a very cost-effective way of maintaining them in the Armed Forces," he said in an interview with *The Times*. Recruiting more sol-



Michael Portillo, who says bonuses are a cost-effective way of keeping trained soldiers

Army in line for pay boost

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SOLDIERS might be offered bigger bonuses as an incentive to stay in the Forces. The idea is one of several being considered by the Army Board to resolve the drastic manpower shortage in many infantry and armoured regiments.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has given his full backing to any Army Board initiative to boost Army numbers and has supported the cash bonuses idea. "If you have already trained people, if they are performing at their peak, to encourage them with money to stay on is a very cost-effective way of maintaining them in the Armed Forces," he said in an interview with *The Times*. Recruiting more sol-

diers and keeping them was now the Army Board's priority. He said he was expecting the board shortly to come up with "new ideas".

The latest figures show that the manpower shortage has increased to 5,350, compared with about 4,000 a year ago. The shortage has come at a time when the Government is preparing to commit more than 1,000 troops to Zaire and is expected to confirm that about 5,000 troops will be deployed in Bosnia next year.

Mr Portillo said: "We're certainly doing a lot and it takes its toll on the Armed Forces. They spend less time with their families than I would like to see. On the other hand it is also essential that we fulfil our international responsibilities and the

Armed Forces are pleased to show how useful they are. If we could recruit the numbers that we want, the problem would be eased."

Since October last year, soldiers who have served two years in the infantry, armoured corps and Royal Artillery have been paid a £1,400 bonus to stay on for another two years. They also get £250 for recruiting a friend. Recruiting is up 35 per cent on last year, but Mr Portillo said that he did not expect the problem to be resolved within the next 12 months. "Because you have to take people in and train them, we have a thinish pipe and you can't push huge numbers down it all at once, so on any analysis it will take some years to get this right," he said.

Queen to consider Archer's royal Bill

By ALICE THOMSON

JEFFREY ARCHER has been told he will need the Queen's permission before he can introduce a Bill to give women equal rights to the throne.

Constitutional experts and clerks in the Lords have been examining the peer's request to put forward a backbench measure to end primogeniture in the Royal Family. They have decided that Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare must take the extremely rare step of presenting "an humble address" in the House.

The address, "praying that her majesty may be graciously pleased to allow that her undoubted prerogative will not stand in the way", will be heard in December, then taken to Buckingham Palace.

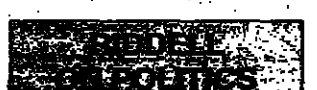
The Queen is expected to send a message giving her assent to a first reading within two weeks. Although Palace officials believe that a government Bill would be more appropriate, they know that the Queen vetoed any proposed legislation. She is presented with "an humble address" only over issues that affect her prerogative and change the law of succession.

If Lord Archer gets his first reading, the issue could be debated in early February. He was in Japan promoting his books yesterday but friends said he was thrilled with the response and convinced that the Queen supported the idea.

Self-appointed saints can spare us the sanctimony

When Brian Mawhinney and Peter Mandelson offer advice to the media, it is time to be suspicious. It is rather like chefs urging shrimping, good intentions contradicted by self-indulgent practice. Their words are belied by their records. There is more than a whiff of hypocrisy.

The Conservative Party chairman and Labour's election campaign manager yesterday gave speeches to the Westminster Media Forum about how the broadcasters and the press should cover the election. They made good points about the need for the media to avoid trivialisation, insider gossip about that most tedious of topics "spin-doctors", and about the dangers of obsession with opinion polls. The media do often lose perspective and ignore the substance of policy. There is a pack mentality which discourages originality and produces a defensive approach in which



papers slavishly follow each other over the alleged story of the day, even if it is trivial or marginal.

Dr Mawhinney and Mr Mandelson are both highly intelligent, sophisticated politicians. The former has, by all accounts, taken a firm grip of Conservative Central Office and given direction to its election planning, while the latter is rightly regarded as one of the main architects of Labour's revival and authors of Blairism. Labour owes a lot to him. But neither is exactly a saintly figure above the fight, as they implied yesterday. They and their agents are as responsible as the media for the faults they bemoaned.

Dr Mawhinney's "strong" advice that all opinion polls should be ignored is a bit rich since Tory officials are among the most eager to find out the

details of the latest polls. Politicians are fascinated by polls. Dr Mawhinney's warning that "none of us should forget that the divisions which have to be made, are between the parties, not within them" is a bit rich. His own staff have never been reticent about briefing against his Cabinet colleagues, as a distinguished list including Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Gillian Shephard and Douglas Hogg can readily testify.

Mr Mandelson deplored negative and spurious stories and gave a number of examples. That would be more defensible if Labour, and Mr Mandelson himself, did not demean public debate by repeatedly accusing the Tories of "lying". Such language does not contribute to the "objective reporting that concentrates on the election's substantive issues" which he seeks.

The real trouble is that Dr Mawhinney and Mr Mandelson would like the media to drop their critical faculties during elections. What they want is stories favourable to their side. What is objective to one is highly partisan to the other. I have no doubt that the parties will be seeking to guide, spin and manage the media during the next six months.

Dr Mawhinney argued that during the campaign the media should "channel messages from those seeking a mandate to those preparing to confer it. The media's primary function during those four weeks is not to stand between the politician and the public interpreting what we mean or what we say. It is to allow the parties to set out their stalls and explain their policies so that the public can then reach a judgment."

Of course, party platforms and speeches should be reported, arguably more than they were in 1992. But these are not impartial statements, detached analyses by the International Monetary Fund of generally agreed facts. They are invariably highly partisan and slanted. Elections are precisely when the press has a vital role in analysing and interpreting the claims of the parties. In the last campaign, most of the press let the Tories off lightly on their grossly over-optimistic claims about tax cuts.

The press and broadcasters can certainly do better in covering politics. But politicians and "spin-doctors" should spare us sanctimonious and self-interested advice. Physician heal thyself.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

Today in the Commons, from 8.20am, backbench debates including on French safety and on the brewing industry; from 2.30pm, Scottish questions; Labour-Independent debate on the National Health Service; backbench debate on water meters in Norwich; in the Lords, debate on the "passport title book in Europe"; the impact of second weekly Lottery draw on Christmas; the Welfare of Broker Children Bill, second reading.

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Why won't the Canadian Government listen to the electorate and stop killing baby seals?

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*Source: Environics, "The Focus Canada Report", March/April 1996.

veale

various buzzing

Wanted: unemployed person to relieve Major of his mantra

Tuesday afternoon marked a significant anniversary for John Major. It was the 300th Prime Minister's Questions which Mr Major himself has taken. 300 sessions of nonsensical questions and nonsensical answers. 300 fatuous 15-minute spats, laid end to end, would yield 60 hours of continuous babble.

Yesterday Major reached Question 6. The inquiry, like all the others, was whether he would state his engagements for the day. The reply, "I refer my hon. Friend [Rt hon. Friend/Gentleman/Lady] to the answer I gave some moments ago," was the reply he always gives. Only once does he actually state his engagements: a meaningless piece of non-information.

The pointless ritual arises for reasons it is pointless to relate. Along with the pauses and the getting up and sitting down, it consumes some 11 seconds. The initial diary-recitation consumes some 15 seconds. Simple arithmetic suggests that Major has now spent nearly six hours of his life in bland recitations of his day's diary, or referring his hon. Friends to the reply he gave some moments ago.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH



off the streets and asked to stand in a small sound-proofed cubicle in the Palace of Westminster, out of earshot of serious politics, and intone the requisite mantra at the requisite hour.

Yesterday, John Major did the honours. It was neither his nor Tony Blair's finest hour. For what felt like the 300th time, a Tory backbencher (Ann Winterton) brought happy tidings of a drop of unemployment in her constituency (Congleton) and asked, for the 300th time, whether this would not be imperilled by "the minimum wage and the social chapter" (sic). For the 300th time, Major found himself "delighted" with the good news, and in absolute agree-

ment with his hon. friend about Labour's threat. Mr Major makes an unconvincing poodle-master and Mrs Winterton an unconvincing poodle. For the 300th time, this sketch asks: Why don't they pack it in?

Then Tony Blair got up. His question about mixed wards in hospitals, on which he became puzzlingly insistent (returning to it three times) is the sort of thing which may sound logical when set out at a policy strategy meeting in a high-

powered public relations consultancy... "You see, Tony, NHS is the message: market research shows we're ahead on health; health is on-message; economics is off-message. Look at these charts... Peter, show him the charts... We hit Major three times on health, then, in the final soundbite, we link through from unreliability on health to unreliability on everything else." "But there isn't anything to say on health." "Then we'll find something. Anji, dig up something on health." ... but which sounded odd in the Chamber. Blair sometimes gives the impression of having got a "Be a Leader of the Opposition" kit for Christmas, painstakingly cutting along the dotted lines, working out which tabs have to be folded back and glued, and where the wheels go. For his part, Major often speaks as though receiving instructions from an eunuch, or perhaps the spirit world. A bizarre duo. 300 PMQs down, how many to go?

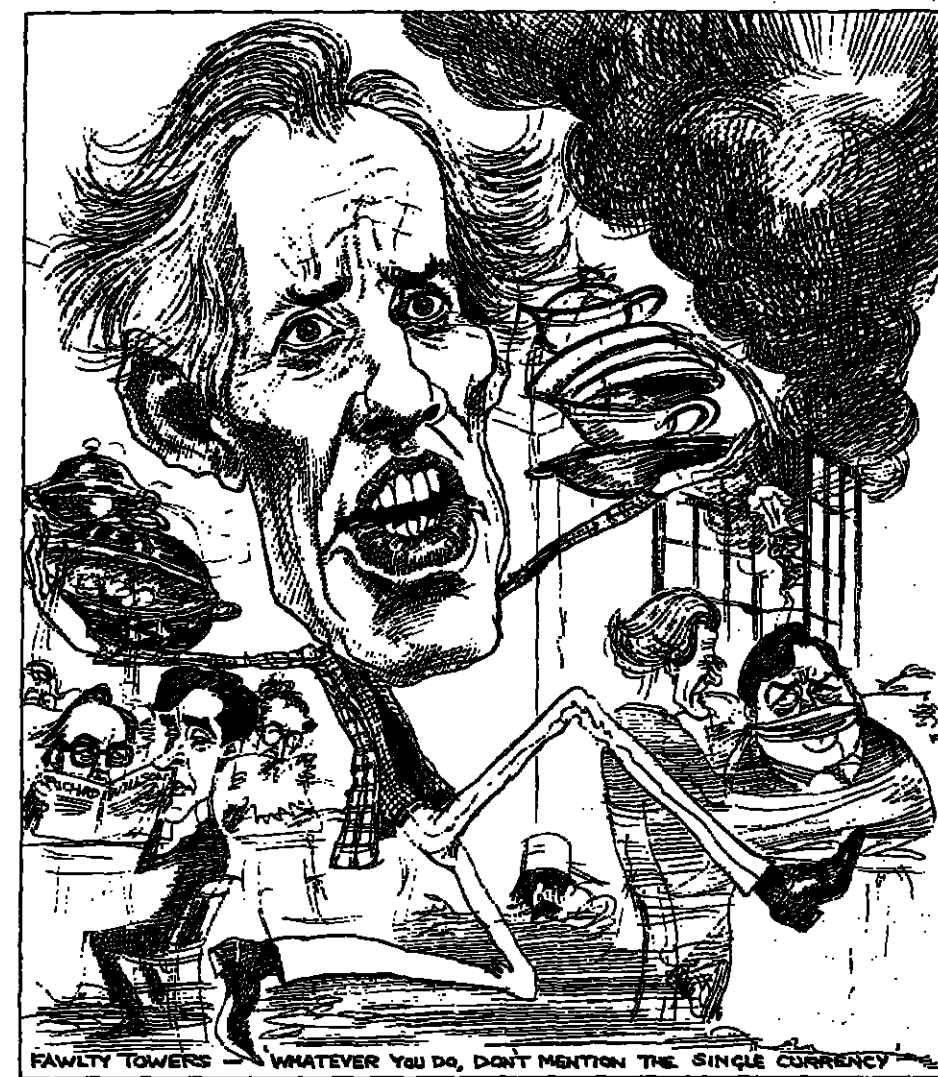
Backbenchers unite to force currency debate into the open

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

The Government is today facing an embarrassing defeat over its attempt to sideline a crucial debate on steps towards a European single currency.

change its mind would be intense. Euro-sceptics and Labour MPs are saying that the Government wants the issue dealt with away from the public glare to avoid the pro-European Kenneth Clarke having to face questions on the single currency.

The debate relates to three EU documents on the euro, the proposals for nations which stay outside the single currency and the "stability pact", under which countries that run up excessive deficits can be fined.



FAMILY TOWERS - "WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MENTION THE SINGLE CURRENCY"

Mr Newton has ruled that the discussions should take place in a committee which is better suited to deal with the details of the proposals. In a memo to MPs, Mr Clarke says he is "concerned that Parliament has the opportunity to comment on these proposals" although he does not specify his preferred forum.

Britain eventually converts to the euro, the low inflation targets and sound public finances advocated by the EU are "sound in their own right". The Government came under fierce attack last night. The leading Euro-sceptic Bill Cash said: "The intention when setting up the standing committees was that important matters should be left on the floor of the House. What is being done here is in direct contravention of that aim."

long way forward from where we were ten or 15 or 20 years ago, but there comes every now and again a major issue when it needs to be brought right to the centre of a visible political debate, and that's on the floor of the House.

Negotiations on the stability pact have caused Germany to clash with nations such as

Britain and Spain over its insistence on cast-iron rules to define when members of EMU would be allowed to run up a deficit. As a result of the deadlock, Brussels officials are predicting EU leaders will be able to agree only a broad political statement on the pact at the Dublin summit next month.

Labour promises to overhaul demoralised CPS

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

LABOUR promised yesterday that in government it would carry out "wholesale reform" of the Crown Prosecution Service.

overwhelmingly supported the idea of an independent prosecution service but were deeply demoralised about its current management culture. More than two thirds of lawyers polled rated the CPS below average on one of the worst places to work more than half would leave their jobs given the chance.

Brown warns utilities

GORDON BROWN delivered a tough warning to privatised utilities last night telling them not to try to wriggle out of paying a windfall tax on their excess profits.

companies were already trying to get out of paying the levy through avoidance schemes. "Let me make clear there is no measure taken by the utilities, whether it be the use of special dividends, share buy backs, tax havens, or the sale of capital allowances, that will reduce or eliminate the windfall levy."

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY

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PETER ANDREWS

British mission to wait for checks by RAF spy plane

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE deployment of British troops to Zaire is to be delayed to allow further reconnaissance of the region by an RAF Canberra aircraft.

The plan, equipped with high-resolution cameras, will take off this morning for Zaire from RAF Marham in Norfolk. Speaking in Moscow during a two-day visit, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said that he had been briefed on the findings of a British Army reconnaissance team, which has just returned from Central Africa.

The group was present when some 500,000 Hutus returned to Rwanda over the past few days from Goma in Zaire, although Mr Portillo said that the fate of a huge refugee population near Bukavu was less clear. The Defence Secretary said he intended to launch a campaign to get the message across to Hutus still in Zaire that those who had crossed the border had not been allowed home and had not been harmed.

Last night, the 43-man British reconnaissance party, led by Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, advised ministers that more time was needed before troops were sent to the region. One senior Ministry of Defence source, briefed by the team, said: "It would be a question of making an offer the rebels couldn't refuse. They would be faced with the sort of armed force that they had never seen in their lives."

more about the situation on the ground."

However, Britain has accepted in principle the responsibility for handling refugees in the Bukavu area at the southern end of Lake Kivu, where it is believed that hundreds of thousands of them are still located. In Goma, north of Lake Kivu, which is to be the American area of operation, all the refugees have either returned or are returning to Rwanda.

The reconnaissance party found it would be possible to send C130 Hercules planes to the airfield at Bukavu and ministers have been advised that a British sector could be set up in the area. The main challenge, the group said, would be to find out whether the alliance of five rebel forces was holding the refugees hostage.

A source close to the reconnaissance party said a local figure called Commander Caesar had said that it would be "mad" to try to take a British platoon into the refugee camp in the Bukavu area. However, Brigadier Thomson is understood to feel confident that well-armed British troops could mount patrols in the area and help the refugees without having to take on the rebel militia.

One source said: "It would be a question of making an offer the rebels couldn't refuse. They would be faced with the sort of armed force that they had never seen in their lives."

The defence sources said that ministers had been offered a military package for Zaire ranging from 1,500 to 4,000 troops, but indicated last night that the force levels would be around the lower number.

Mr Portillo's victory: The Defence Secretary appeared to score a minor diplomatic coup in his meeting yesterday with General Igor Rodionov, the Russian Defence Minister, who said later he was reassured that Nato was not a threat to Russian security, a point he has rarely conceded.

However, General Rodionov said that millions of people, particularly Russians, still remained to be convinced of this fact, "just as we have to convince the West that Russia poses no threat to the West".

Exhausted Hutus find little rest

Gisenyi, Rwanda: Huge bottlenecks of exhausted Hutu returnees built up inside Rwanda yesterday.

While the human tide of refugees entering Rwanda from Goma, Zaire, slowed to a trickle, for many Hutus the suffering continued in the homeland they fled in 1994 after their kinsmen committed genocide against minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Tens of thousands of returning refugees demanding food blocked the streets of Nkamira, 13 miles from the border. Two soldiers stood on guard outside a United Nations transit centre at Nkamira, stopping refugees from entering to have a rest, sleep and receive food as planned by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Rwandan authorities insist that the refugees, exhausted after days of marching and sleeping rough, must keep trudging onwards to their home villages.

A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross accused Rwandan soldiers of commandeering four of its trucks to ferry refugees out of the cramped border area. (Reuter)



A Rwandan Hutu woman plays with her child on her return home to Rubavu, 12 miles east of Gisenyi

US will not send combat troops

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA has overturned last week's plan to commit combat ground troops to Zaire, and will now send fewer than 100 support staff, the Pentagon said yesterday.

William Perry, the Defence Secretary, said that the peaceful return of more than 500,000 refugees to Rwanda over the past few days was "a very positive development" which meant that US combat troops were no longer needed.

The statement marks a sharp scaling-down of US plans for involvement in Zaire. Last Friday, President Clinton announced that America would send 5,000 troops to Zaire and neighbouring countries, including 1,000 combat troops. The President's move, against the advice of the National Security Council, coincided with the White House's formal recognition that US troops would have to prolong their stay in Bosnia.

As Rwandan refugees began returning home from Zaire at the weekend, Republicans in Congress criticised Mr Clinton for his haste in offering US troops.

Mr Perry said in Washington that the US still planned to take part in the military operation to support the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Rwanda. "This force will require considerably fewer troops than originally envisioned and will operate chiefly in Rwanda," he said.

"Our current thinking is that the US contribution to this effort will be less than 1,000 troops. And these will be support logistics troops rather than combat troops."

According to the Pentagon, US Air Force teams have already moved into Kigali, the Rwandan capital, Mombasa, in Kenya, and Entebbe, Uganda, to help transport aid and support staff into Rwanda. The first C17 cargo plane left Germany yesterday, loaded with equipment to help Kigali to set up an air traffic control system.

Mr Perry added that while the situation in Central Africa remained fluid, Washington was prepared to send troops to help other military units in Zaire if necessary.

Mr Clinton, who arrived in Sydney yesterday on a three-week tour of Australia and Asia, is urgently seeking a replacement for Mr Perry, who wants to leave the Cabinet for the private sector.

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Unveiling of another 'mole' shakes CIA chiefs



Nicholson: caught on film

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

A BELEAGUERED CIA tried to refurbish the tarnished image of American espionage yesterday after it emerged that a senior agent arrested for spying against Washington had first passed secrets to Moscow at the height of the Aldrich Ames case two years ago.

Harold Nicholson, 46, the highest-ranking US agent to be charged with spying for a foreign power, had been taken into custody as he boarded a plane to meet his Russian controllers in Switzerland last weekend. He

appeared before a court in Virginia this week charged with selling classified documents, including details about CIA trainees and other personnel, for more than \$120,000 (about £75,000) to the Russians.

Although there is no apparent link between Ames, the most damaging "mole" to work at the CIA, and Mr Nicholson, the latest case nevertheless sent shockwaves through the Virginia headquarters at Langley where John Deutch, the director, had claimed personal pride in resurrecting the agency from its darkest hour. Mr Deutch, who hopes to succeed William Perry as Defence Secretary

in a new Clinton Administration, made numerous reforms in the top echelons of the CIA after his predecessor, James Woolsey, was forced to resign after the Ames affair.

Ames, now serving a life sentence in prison, received at least £1.3 million from Moscow, sent at least ten allied agents to their deaths and jeopardised more than 100 covert operations in Europe.

Although both Mr Deutch and Louis Freeh, the FBI director, portrayed Mr Nicholson's arrest as proof that America's espionage community had become more alert to the question of moles, the CIA director

was forced to concede yesterday that other "sour apples" may still exist within his agency.

The final piece of evidence against Mr Nicholson came last week when a CIA surveillance team recorded him on film kneeling beneath his desk and photographing secret documents with a high-definition briefcase camera requisitioned from the field equipment department. But an investigation of the suspect had been under way for nearly a year. Agents wove a case against him based on answers to lie-detector tests, a pattern of overseas travel unrelated to his work and bank deposits that could

not be explained by Mr Nicholson's annual salary of \$73,000.

Even so, he was still able to pass on information to his handlers.

In recent weeks, investigators had searched his home, car and mailboxes that they believe he used to send postcards with cryptic messages. One card of the US Capitol dated August 1 was addressed "Hello Old Friend" and suggested a "ski holiday" on November 23 and 24. Signed by Nevil Strachey, the card is thought to have been a signal for a meeting with the Russians on the two dates. It bore the postscript: "The snow should be fine by then."

Sex files go to MPs in Belgium

Brussels: The Belgian parliament yesterday opened an inquiry into paedophile allegations against Eric Di Rupo, the Deputy Prime Minister (Charles Bruneau writes). Similar steps were taken by two regional assemblies in the case of Jean-Pierre Grafé, a minister in Wallonia.

Brussels prosecutors handed parliament to files containing allegations that the ministers had engaged in homosexual acts with under-age boys.

Promotion for Bucharest mayor

Bucharest: Victor Cioba, the man who beat former, Ilie Nastase, in elections for Mayor of Bucharest has been appointed Romania's Prime Minister. Mr Cioba, 42, a former trade unionist, gained a reputation for efficiency and incorruptibility in his administration of the capital. (AP)

Chiluba on way to Zambia win

Lusaka: President Chiluba and his ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy appear to be on their way to a landslide victory in Zambia's general elections (Jan Raath writes). A surprisingly high turnout promise a parliament with city token opposition.

Greece will miss EMU first round

Athens: Greece will not be in the first batch of states to join economic and monetary union (EMU) in 1999 and will struggle to make the second round. Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, said. He was speaking after a Cabinet meeting on the 1997 budget. (AP)

Broken home

Sarajevo: A domestic dispute in the Bosnian town of Bijeljina reached an explosive climax when a Serb man fired a bazooka at his wife. He missed and severely damaged their home. (AP)

Germany jails Palestinian for 1977 hijack

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY yesterday closed a chapter of its postwar history by jailing for 12 years a Palestinian terrorist for the 1977 hijacking of a thansa jet and the murder of a pilot.

Souhaila Andrawes, 43, wept down in tears when the judges read out the verdict and rejected her defence that she did not personally pull the trigger on the plane.

A Palestinian group hijacked the plane to Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, to pressure the German government to free 11 jailed members of the Red Army faction. The plane was armed by a German anti-terrorist unit accompanied by two members of the British SAS. All the hijackers were killed apart from Andrawes, who was wounded in the leg. The 86 hostages were freed unharmed.

An ITV documentary to be shown next month has brought together Andrawes

and the widow of the pilot. The encounter, shortly before the former terrorist was extradited from Oslo to Germany, was a classic attempt to bridge the gap between victim and criminal. Andrawes made clear that while she regretted the killing of the pilot, she saw herself both as a victim and as a heroine for the Palestinian cause.

Survivors of the hijack remember Andrawes not as a restraining influence on the other terrorists, but rather as one of the most brutal. She is recalled as the woman "with the grenades always shouting and screaming at us". As the pilot was shot, she stood by eating an apple with one hand and holding a grenade in the other.

Andrawes was sentenced to 20 years in a Somali prison but was released because of ill-health after a year and returned home to Beirut. She then moved around the world and in 1992 was allowed to settle in Norway. By that time



Souhaila Andrawes, a former Palestinian terrorist, is comforted by her lawyer before sentencing in Hamburg yesterday

the German authorities had unravelled much of the Red Army Faction network, with the help of ex-terrorists caught in former East Germany, and had enough evidence to justify an extradition request.

Her lawyers argued that she had already been punished

but the German authorities were insistent that she had not been brought to book properly. The sentencing seems to have satisfied a longing for justice in Germany. The Mogadishu hijack, with all its associated events, such as the suicide of three jailed German

terrorists including Andreas Baader, and the killing of the head of German industry, Hans-Martin Schleyer, left a deep scar which has never fully healed.

Iran protest Security was stepped up at the German Embassy in Tehran yesterday

as protesters again demonstrated against what they called a "den of spies". Relations between the two countries were soured by the trial in Berlin of men accused of murdering three Kurdish opposition leaders, allegedly acting under orders from Iran's secret service.

Moscow to roll out red carpet for Jewish dissident who made good

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

NATAN SHARANSKY, the best-known former Soviet Jewish refugee, will return early next week to Russia to a red-carpet welcome. His visit, ten years after he was freed after serving nine years of a 13-year sentence on trumped-up charges of

being a CIA spy, signifies how relations between the two countries have been transformed.

In his new role as Israeli Minister of Trade and Industry, and leader of a successful party for former Soviet immigrants in the Jewish state, he will lead more than 80 Israelis who are set on improving trade and diplomatic relations with Moscow.

Mr Sharansky, 48, will be accompanied on the emotional week-long trip to Moscow and St Petersburg by his mother and his wife, Avital, whose tireless campaign for his freedom turned him into an international symbol of the struggle against totalitarianism in the 1980s.

Mrs Sharansky was expelled one day after their marriage in 1974.

Later, at his trial, Mr Sharansky shouted defiantly "Next year in Jerusalem" before being led away.

Roman Polonsky, one of 700,000 new immigrants from the former Soviet Union and chief spokesman for the ministry, said Mr Sharansky had requested permission to visit Lefortovo prison in Moscow, where he spent a year and a half in solitary

confinement before his trial. "The Russian authorities have not yet informed us whether they will allow that visit," he said.

Mr Sharansky has vowed to use his influence to improve the status of former Soviet immigrants to Israel and persuade another million to emigrate and transform the character and economy of Israel.

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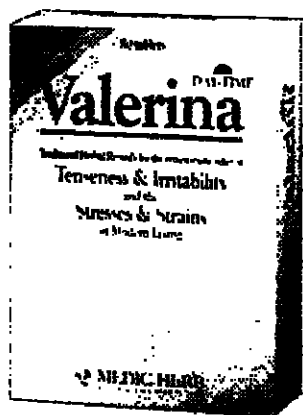
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Hobart court told how killer laughed as 35 victims died

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE gunman accused of the world's worst civilian shooting grinned and laughed as he slaughtered 35 people in Tasmania, a Hobart court was told yesterday.

The court also heard that he deliberately sought out a six-year-old girl hiding behind a tree who he then shot at point-blank range in the back of the neck.

Martin Bryant, who has pleaded guilty to 72 charges arising from last April's massacre at the former penal colony of Port Arthur, approached little Alannah Mikac after murdering her mother, Nanette, and her three-year-old sister, Madeline. Then he calmly pushed the muzzle of the gun into her neck and pulled the trigger, Damian Bugg, the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the court.

Tasmania's Supreme Court was also told how an unnamed survivor watched Bryant, 29, open fire on customers in the Broad Arrow cafe.

"He appeared to be laughing in an aggressive way rather than an amused way," Mr Bugg said. "He said Bryant walked from table to table shooting people in the head."

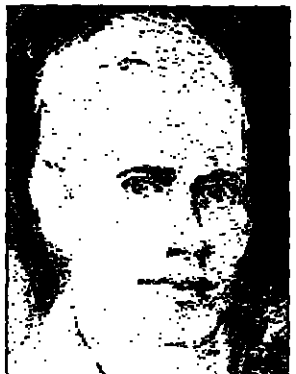
Earlier Bryant, whose long blond hair had been cut short for the court appearance, covered his face as the Crown prosecutor asked that he be

given a life sentence with no possibility of release. At times he glanced up at the public gallery where many of the victims' families sat.

Mr Bugg said that Bryant began building up his supply of ammunition and weapons over several months before the massacre, even hiding his semi-automatic guns in a piano in his house.

"Clearly at that particular time he intended to embark upon his murderous and violent conduct at Port Arthur," Mr Bugg said. The massacre had an "air of pre-planning".

After Bryant shot his first victims, an elderly couple who ran the small Seascope guest house just outside the Port Arthur site, he made his way to the Broad Arrow cafe.



An artist's impression of Martin Bryant

Witnesses said that at first they thought it was a historical re-enactment. Then Bryant opened fire with his semi-automatic weapon, laughing at his victims as they tried to dive for cover under tables.

Fifteen seconds later 12 people were dead. A minute later a further eight were killed.

The court was also shown a one-minute video shot by an American tourist who was at the scene of the tragedy shortly after Bryant had left the cafe. Filmed from 100 yards away, Bryant was seen shooting at the camera at times and following his victims around with his gun pointed in their direction. While watching the video from the dock, Bryant grinned but at times looked uneasy.

Mr Bugg said Bryant gave no indication of his intentions when he had dinner with his mother and girlfriend in Hobart the previous evening.

The following morning he stopped and spoke to several people at a shop and petrol station when he drove from Hobart to Port Arthur. Two of the witnesses who spoke to him asked him if he was going surfing.

"No, I am going to the island of the dead to get rid of some Wasps," he reportedly said.

The judge is expected to sentence Bryant tomorrow.



Survivor Walter Mikac with his wife Nanette, their three-year-old daughter, Madeline, and six-year-old Alannah, all Bryant's victims. Alannah was killed by a shot in the head

Blow to Hindu as court permits beauty pageant

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Miss World beauty pageant was given the go-ahead by an Indian court yesterday, on condition that there is no "indecent exposure of the bodies of participants amounting to obscenity and nudity".

It was a defeat for Hindu nationalists, who are threatening to use violence to halt the event, due to be televised globally on Saturday.

The increasingly militant Hindutva (Hinduness) movement is gaining strength as a backlash against liberal trends and Western influences that are bringing rapid changes to conservative rural India, where nearly 80 per cent of the population live. The movement gained notoriety last month after a mob destroyed works by Mughal artist, India's most celebrated living artist, who is a Muslim.

The violent trend is fuelled by the state government of Maharashtra, India's richest region, where Hindu nationalists are in power. Mr Husain faces possible legal action by the state for depicting several Hindu goddesses in the nude, and police have charged him with inciting hatred. A 20-year-old drawing of Saraswati, goddess of knowledge and the arts, without clothes has become the focus of Hindu outrage. Mr Husain, 51, called it "just a scribble".

Throughout his career he has used Hindu iconography to make his work accessible to wide audiences. Some of his best-known paintings depict scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata epics. He has produced many figures of popular deities, including Ganesha, Hanuman and Durga. Effigies of artist have been burnt dozens of his works destroyed.

Bejraj Dal, an umbrella organisation for militant Hindu groups, is leading an attack on Mr Husain's work. "No Muslim has the right to portray our deities any way wishes," said Jaibhan Singh Patwa, its leader.

He claims Mr Husain is part of an international conspiracy to spread Western culture to India and is a "mandating that all 'objectable' paintings should be submerged in the River Ganges, holy to Hindus."

"Let the scholars and the historians and the experts together and decide whether this is objectionable or not," Mr Husain said. "If... such panel finds my paintings objectionable, I'll be the first to light a bonfire and burn everything."

Indian artists mounted widespread demonstrations last month after an exhibition of Mr Husain's paintings in Ahmedabad, valued at more than £250,000, was destroyed by a Hindu mob carrying trident, the symbol of the god Shiva. A procession of artists in Bangalore shouted slogans against attempts by Hindu fundamentalists to censor art and there were protest marches in Delhi and Calcutta.

Israeli grooms hit credit hitch

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESS IN JERUSALEM

AN ISRAELI rabbi has issued a decree warning grooms who buy wedding rings with a credit card that their marriages might be invalid.

The ruling by Rabbi Mordechai Elyahu, a leading authority in the Sephardic community of Middle Eastern Jews, came after a man in northern Israel was nearly forced to remarry his bride because he bought her ring on credit. According to Jewish law, a groom must own the

wedding ring at the time of his marriage. But when the ring is purchased with a credit card, it remains the property of the seller until the debt is cleared.

In the case of the unidentified couple in northern Israel, they discovered after their wedding that a banking error had delayed payment for their ring. The couple went to Rabbi Elyahu for a ruling on the matter and he decreed that since the delay in paying the debt was the bank's fault, their marriage remained valid.

But he went on to issue a ruling warning grooms not to

buy wedding rings with credit cards unless they are certain that the payment will be completed before their marriage ceremony. "You cannot legally wed a woman with a ring that does not legally belong to you," he wrote.

□ Dubai: The United Arab Emirates plans to ban its men from marrying non-Arab women to shield society from the "negative influences of mixed marriages", an official said yesterday. Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have in recent years imposed similar restrictions. (Reuters)

Earthquakes rock China and India

Peking: A powerful earthquake, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, rocked a sparsely populated mountainous area in northwest China yesterday, but there were no reports of casualties.

The quake struck the Karakorum mountain area in Xinjiang province, 2,000 miles west of Peking, and was felt in nearby towns and counties, the official Xinhua news agency said. Walls of houses were cracked. In India yesterday, a mod-

erate earthquake, the third in 48 hours in the west and north, shook Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state. Police and state authorities said there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

Earlier yesterday, an earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale struck the northeastern state of Assam. Late on Sunday, an earthquake which also measured 4.8 struck the western Indian state of Gujarat. (Reuters, AP)

Bhutto power appeal rejected

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

BENAZIR BHUTTO, the deposed Prime Minister of Pakistan, suffered a setback yesterday in her legal battle to restore her Government to power. The Supreme Court rejected her petition, challenging her dismissal by President Leghari, as containing irrelevant, objectionable and scandalous material.

Yesterday, police arrested her political secretary, Nahid Khan, as the caretaker Government launched a crack-

down on senior officials of the ousted Prime Minister. Miss Khan, one of Miss Bhutto's closest aides, was arrested at Islamabad airport after she arrived from Karachi accompanying Miss Bhutto. Police said she had been detained under the maintenance of public order law.

An angry Miss Bhutto accused the caretaker Government of using fascist methods to crush her supporters.

Seven top officials of her Government, including Ahmed Sadiq, former principal secretary, Azhar Sohail, media

adviser, and Masood Sharif, intelligence chief, were also arrested this week. Sources in the new Government said they were involved in serious charges of corruption and abuse of power. Miss Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, is already under detention.

The latest move against Miss Bhutto's allies came after the promulgation of a new law by President Leghari. It provides for the disqualification from public office of politicians involved in corruption and abuse of power. They also face a seven-year jail term.



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The winter's great wrap-up



Long and lean or short and slim - now is the time to concentrate on the coat, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

Just when you thought you knew how to get dressed in the morning, along comes a designer telling you it is all wrong. This year designers are affronted by the jacket as Lady Bracknell was by the notorious handbag.

"A jacket? A jacket?" one can hear them screeching across the cutting tables. "Who on earth is going to wear a jacket?" Well, quite a few of us are, given half a chance. After all, we have grown up with the idea - fed to us by the fashion cognoscenti - that all we needed was one good jacket to see us stylishly through the winter.

Now designers have taken a collective decision to dispense with the jacket and instead to treat the coat as an integral part of an outfit, rather than an outer layer to be discarded on coming indoors.

The result has been a confusing choice of coat styles, each creating a particular silhouette but without necessarily accommodating the rest of your wardrobe.

One solution is to buy a coat that makes a statement in itself, and then fit everything else around it. "I've invested in a black shearing Gucci coat, and I'm so in love with it, I'm wearing it no matter what the temperature or what's appropriate," says Kate Reardon, fashion director of *Tatler*.

But then, she admits, she never did like jackets. "I used to try and wear them, rather unsuccessfully, and I'm deeply relieved that they're no longer the vital piece in the wardrobe."

From the bewildering variety of shapes and forms shown on the catwalks and now available in the high street, four main silhouettes emerge: long and lean; belted 1970s-style coats, often in suede or leather; knee-length fitted "suit coats"; and knee-length furs.

Of these, the "suit coat" is the safest alternative to the jacket. The narrow jacket is, more like a jacket it will look as you stride into a business meeting. Look for lightweight gaberdines or fine wools, depending on how warm you want it to be. A coat and skirt in stone, teamed with a fawn shirt or sweater, can also look very suave.

But the short, slim coat can be restrictive. It looks fabulous with slim-leg trousers and excellent with knee-length skirts and dresses. But team it with a below-the-knee skirt of any description and the whole look falls apart.

Those who have bought

maxi-coats, on the other hand, report a practical problem with stairs. Descending, the hem trails down the steps, picking up a layer of dirt. Ascending, especially with heavy bags, can simply be very awkward.

If you are committed to minimalism, however, then the long, lean shape is the best bet. You can team it with anything - so long as there is only one layer. Bear in mind that if the coat has a deep V-neck, you will have to coordinate what goes underneath. Either that, or resort to one of this season's long woolly scarves as a strategic cover-up.

The warmest option, for those who have to brave the already wintry weather, is probably a really good fake fur coat. Look for wide lapels or large shawl collars, loud ani-



mal prints such as those at Dolce & Gabbana or, for a dash of Gucci style, put a dark fake fur against white.

Belted suedes and leathers can be worn with most things - but will not withstand a heavy downpour. Go for a slim leather design and you will evoke the cool of 1930s Berlin. But beware - opt for something in suede with a shaggy afghan trim and the effect may be more 1970s sitcom.

Which brings us to colour: browns, fawns, greys and khakis are the replacements for black. But if you find these dull and you're confident that you can colour-coordinate, then there are also strong shades of blue and pink around.

Finally there is the limousine lifestyle option: pure white. Great on the catwalk, possibly not so good on the sidewalk.

Above left: Suede alghen, £780 by Joseph, Sloane Street, London SW1. Denim mini, £39.99 by Morgan, Barker's Arcade, London W8. Silk shirt, £90 by Katharine Hamnett, Harrods Way-in, London SW1. Tights, £3.99 at Fenwicks, New Bond Street, London W1. suede boots, £49.99 by Shelley's, Regent Street, London W1.

Above centre: Turquoise single breasted princess coat, £33.50 by La Redoute mail order, tel 0500-777-777. Check silk shirt, £25 by Whistles, St. Christopher's Place, London W1. Mulberry velvet trousers, £59 at Fenwicks, New Bond Street.

Above right: Greatcoat, £179 at Fenwicks. Brown and beige check trousers, £70 by French Connection, Long Acre, London WC2. Olive poloneck, £55 by Morgan. Mock croc chain belt, £65 at Fenwicks.

Photographer: Steve Poole. Styled by Deborah Brett; hair and make-up by Helen Bannon; model, Kat at Boss Models

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Nobody has a good time in New York any more

A bra strap-snapping hero has emerged to save a city that has become cautious, sober, air-conditioned and user-friendly. **Quentin Letts reports**

Manhattan's harried, haggard, fortysomethings have a revolutionary new role model. It is not a Colgate-glinting yuppie with cellular telephone and freshly ironed Brooks Brothers shirt. Nor, for once, is it some tanned geek on an exercise bike at the local gym, flexing her pecs.

The new role model is not even young. He is a hoary, bra strap-snapping, 60-year-old goat of a man who, for 4½ days a week, toils in a New York newspaper office until, on Friday afternoons, he goes off for what the great Jilly Cooper would call a "really good bonk". His partner in this sport is a pneumatic young broad whom he met at a cocktail party. Hours later our champion returns to the office, face pink as a slapped bottom, full of cheer and addressing everyone as "captain".

The man, sadly anonymous, appears in an explosive essay in this week's *New Yorker* magazine. Its author, James Atlas, has asked the question nobody in this city has dared to ask for too long: "When was the last time you did something just for the hell of it?" The article is titled *The Fall of Fun* and in it Mr Atlas, 47, describes the cautious, sober, detoxed, taste-free, uncluttered, low-fat, air-conditioned, user-friendly, space-respecting hall of tension that New York life has become.

In such a world, Mr Atlas's essay is an act of courage. He reports the self-restraint that the Manhattan elite now imposes, a moral equivalent of car seat-belts. Mr Atlas has lifted a mirror to the face of America's Baby Boomers and the reflection it carries is one of a generation that is newly puritanical, "anhedonic".

At a spring literary party in Manhattan's leafy Gramercy Park, he found himself eyeing up a "pillow-lipped publicist in a short leather skirt". By his third glass of champagne he was fingering a desire to stay longer and chat up the girl.



A clubber has a good time at the Ritz, but good times are dying out fast in a city that is now detoxed and taste-free

The alternative was to do the expected thing and leave at 8.10pm to head home, see the children before they went to bed and have a dull supper with his dear wife. Alas, Mr Atlas did the expected thing, but it was with a heavy heart and the realisation that his generation has lost the plot. The symbolic representation of Nineties New York, he notes, should be "a series of red circles, each with a line through it: No Smoking, No

Drinking, No Sex, No Fun". He laments: "It isn't this way in Europe, where business is a form of socialising, not the other way round." He repeats the regretful observation that those of us who ARE European have sometimes heard but which Americans find irresponsible, that the art of a languid lunch in New York is dead.

"Where are the disastrous miscalculations, the squandered opportunities, the wrong turns that made life so picaresque and hairy?" he asks. "Nobody quits a job any more after hurling an inkwell at the boss." Melik Kaylan, 39, a writer and social observer in Manhattan, reads the Atlas article like a man consuming an iced pilsner in Alexandria. New York, Kaylan agrees, has become a place where one can no longer afford to err. "In the old days, it was the little old lady next door with the twitching curtain who disapproved of you. Now it is your friends," he says.

Mr Atlas's complaint refers specifically to the city's intellectuals, the authors, poets and creative people for whom gluttony, drunkenness and sloth were once *de rigueur*. In Nineties New York those vices are absent, along with any behaviour that is lubricious or somewhat spotty (although greed is OK). "People who have too good a time are seen as a liability by their peers," says Mr Kaylan.

Political correctness may seem too easy a target, but one must not underestimate the debilitating effect of a creed which has banished vivid colours from the city's social canvas. No middle class New Yorker speaks in blue these days. Where are the bustiers and the Cuban heels, the

salacious winks, salty jokes and raspberry laughs?

America has become a place where a nonagenarian like Senator Strom Thurmond can be accused of impropriety for goosing a pretty woman in a lift. Impropriety? It should be hailed as a miracle that old Strom still has some gas in his tank.

Hack writers no longer earn their beer money by selling review copies of novels at secondhand book shops. These days they have six figure Hollywood deals. Few people even seem to have time to read books any more, so frantic are they in their effort to lead lives that have sprung from the pages of the Sunday colour supplement. Even on their holidays (two weeks a year, maximum) these ghostly robots itch to self-improve.

Mr Atlas's article may have echoes of a male mid-life crisis. Nor is he the first to wait that "fingers ain't wot they used to be". He bangs on about the good old Sixties with LSD and a Freak Brothers-style VW minibus, but we have had the corpses of Jerry Garcia and Timothy Leary for that.

However, his *New Yorker* article may be the most surprising, refreshing piece of Manhattan commentary this year.

It has broken a vital rule. If you belong to the pleasure-deprived tribe he describes, the last thing you should do is to confess to the world that you are having a thoroughly miserable time. But Mr Atlas has stripped away a lie. Perhaps next time he goes to a spring drinks party and meets a pillow-lipped publicist he will follow the example of the lusty old bra strap-snapper. Perhaps he will give life a damned good twang.

Sick of mixing

Forget the political jargon of the Patient's Charter, mixed-sex wards are just another money-saver

All doctors know that the Patient's Charter has made life harder for them, but what the patients don't seem to realise is that it makes it worse for them, too. All these charters do is offer a conduit for people's concerns; they do absolutely nothing to allay them. They are thus nothing short of a brilliant device for making everyone feel hard done by.

Take the Patient's Charter approach to mixed-sex wards. It or rather the Department of Health, recognises that these are unpopular with the public. So what is to be done? Not get rid of them — that costs money. Instead, we are pandered to by being given the right to be told in advance if we are to be admitted to a mixed-sex ward. We might have no choice in the matter thereafter, but a right's a right, isn't it, and how can it therefore be wrong?

This is nonsense, of course. But so potent is the contemporary language of rights that it drowns out more gentle reasoning. And what is at stake here — a person's wish to insist on (rather than resist) sex segregation — has no less fallen foul of the modern orthodoxy. Sex segregation wherever it occurs must be a Bad Thing, so the thinking goes, and those who champion it are at best old-fashioned and irrelevant, at worst reactionary and downright sexist. The real reason for mixed-sex wards is financial — but it helps that there is the pseudo-political patter to go with it.

Now, nobody is arguing that this would matter in an emergency. All we want then is to be treated as fast and as effectively as possible — and it doesn't, frankly, matter if there is someone from a different solar system in the next bed, let alone of a different sex. But because that holds true, we are made to feel as if we're being petty, hung-up on trifles if we say that in other circumstances we mind having to be treated in a mixed-sex ward.

But people do mind. I doubt the Patient's Association is putting it too strongly when it declares that a

mixed-sex ward is "an affront to privacy and dignity". (These days, those very terms seem almost quaint but what does that say itself?) Those who think the fuss is silly beyond belief are being remarkably silly themselves. You cannot just wave away such concerns as irrelevant when they are so sincerely, anxiously held.

I suspect that most of the people who object are older, but that doesn't make it a marginal complaint. All people, of whatever age, are

with sexual images, but remarkably innocent about the primitive power of sexual feelings. Women, understandably riled by years of being described only in terms of their sexual attractiveness to men, idiotically chant the mantra about caring about their appearance for themselves alone. Narcissism — the wearisome preserve of the I-wear-this-microskirt-for-myself brigade — is applauded, but wishing to be attractive to the opposite sex is deemed downright despicable, castigated as victim behaviour.

But if women mind lying about in their nighties, being attended to medically, while a man is in the bed next door, it is because it offends their sexual vanity. None of us feels any better for being seen at our worst. I suspect men mind the mixed-sex ward slightly less, if only because men's sexual confidence seems to hold up rather better than women's. And of course, they already have the nurses around.

I shouldn't be surprised if men preferred mixed-sex wards. After all, men are used to being surrounded by women when they are ill and they are prepared to show weakness in front of women in a way they would hate to in front of other men. I think it is different for women: we tend to feel we have to be stronger, better, when there are men around. Men need women to be all these things, and we take it to heart.

Historically, it is true that segregation has generally been the way the powerful excluded the less powerful. But while we should be alert to pernicious discrimination, we shouldn't deny that sometimes segregation between the sexes can be mutually desired, perhaps even beneficial. And some of the arguments against fail to convince. For people to want to spend some time in the company of their own sex is not the same thing as demanding the right to spend time with people of the same race. Sophists might dissallow the distinction, but the rest of us can tell the difference easily enough.



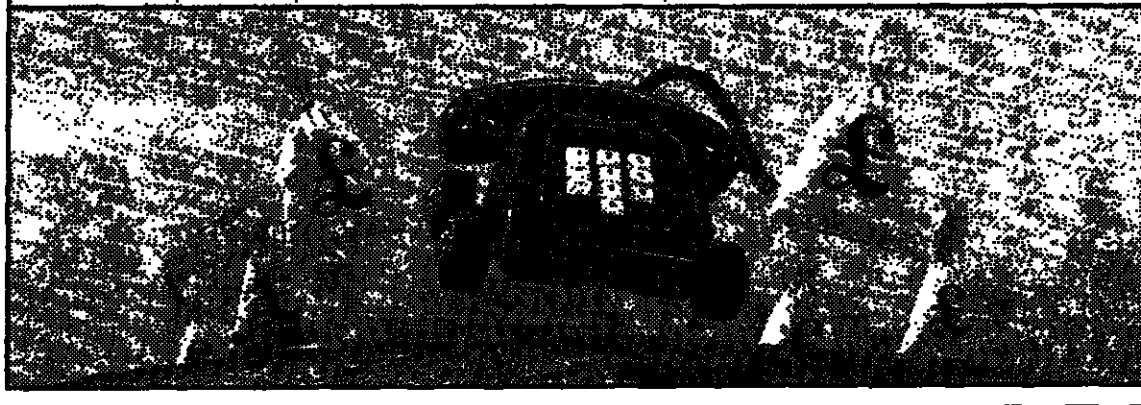
Nigella Lawson

at their frailest and most vulnerable when they are in hospital, and it cannot help their treatment if their stay there increases that sense of vulnerability. This may not be one to go to the barricades for, but it is worth taking seriously.

What is behind the confusion about whether it matters is a confusion — a very modern confusion — about the sexes and the differences between them. On the one hand, contemporary wisdom holds that any distinctions made between the sexes are abhorrent and at best conditioned by a culture obsessed with sexual stereotypes; on the other, we are obsessed with a Seventies sitcom view of a battle between the sexes, concerning who's better, more moral, superior, inferior.

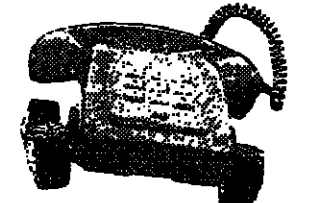
And then — just to complicate matters — there is the confusion about sex itself. Our culture is bombarded

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Alan Coren



I need assistance. And if I don't get it, I may sulk and suck my thumb

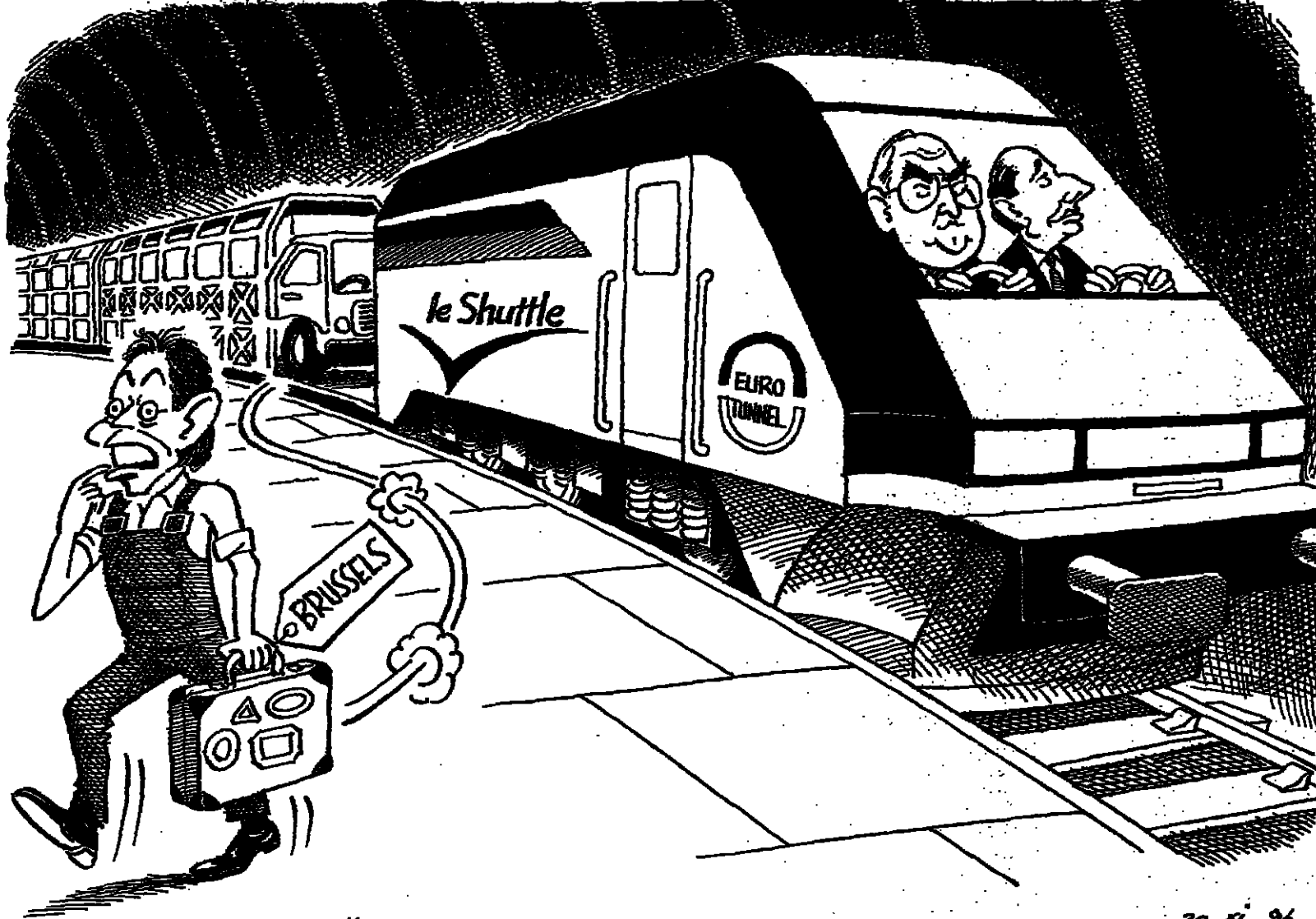
I lay in bed this morning, trying to work out what I needed, and by the time I got up at half-past nine, I had worked out exactly what I needed. I needed somebody to get me up before half-past nine.

Yes, that is what I finally worked out this morning. I need a nanny. A nanny is the only cure not merely for the indolence of the solitary hack, but for the habits even worse than indolence which indolence generates.

I really need someone at bathtime. I need someone to bath me, and make me all nice before Mrs. Coren gets home.

When the tables began there was much hogwash about them being "only one of the factors" that should be used to judge a school.

God bless Nanny, I know that's right. Time to put an ad in *The Lady*.



"Er... on second thoughts..." Peter Brooks

In league with ignorance

Today *The Times* publishes a survey that will delight some schools throughout England and Wales, and dismay and demoralise many. It is the annual secondary school league table.

The cult of the league table is driving British bureaucracy close to hysteria. There are league tables of hospital deaths, police responses, academic output, cervical cancers, benefit fraud, court occupancy, beach cleansing, rent collecting and local council efficiency.

Some of these tables have curiosity value. They pander to the public's fascination with a horse race or a song contest. Most are like the potions of 18th-century quacks. They are offered as a cure for a supposed illness and validated by spurious statistics.

The league idea was seized by John Patten, when he was Education Secretary, and extended to state schools. He took an existing, valid requirement that schools make their exam results available to parents and used it for a nationwide carnival of institutional success and failure.

When the tables began there was much hogwash about them being "only one of the factors" that should be used to judge a school.

Tables disguise failure, distort study, degrade teachers and mislead parents

and governors know what these tables mean. They have transformed the atmosphere of every school I know.

Three years ago on this page I criticised the advent of league tables by writing a spoof bursar's report to his governors. He declared that drastic measures were needed. Teachers would be paid by exam results.

I meant it satirically. Yet every one of these predictions has come true. Bounties in the form of scholarships are being paid to transferring sixth-formers.

Small wonder these tables come with ample evidence of their own success. A-level pass rates have risen for 13 years in succession, with corresponding inflation of A-grade passes.

The evidence of the league tables so far is that the "best" schools become more popular. Further down the list, anarchy reigns.

In a report last year, the Royal Statistical Society pointed out that the numbers involved at each grade are too small for realistic (let alone fair) comparison between schools.

The most severe decline in performance against the average was in the lowest 10 per cent of secondary pupils. These are the pupils who are the biggest risk to the community and to whom schools should be giving special attention.

Britain's problem does not lie with the ability of the top 40-50 per cent of pupils. Every expert who has studied the composition of British labour since the war has reached the same conclusion: the biggest handicap is the poor quality of the least skilled section of the workforce.

Even this primitive elitism might be valid if exam results measured what communities want from their schools.

have mastered the art of "filling little pitchers with water". They show the same craze for quantifying a profession's output that performance audit is now inflicting on the work of doctors, academics, lawyers and public administrators.

The high priests of this audit sit far removed from those whose labours they assess and fund. We should not be surprised that they grasp at any statistics that come to hand when they never see faces.

If the goods of politics must have tables, then we should at least appease them with research that is relevant to a school's real mission. This is surely to fashion a citizen to play a mature role as a member of a family, the community and the economy.

League tables are erecting a wall of statistics round schools, shielding them from true accountability to their communities. Behind these walls, they are turning Britain's secondary schools into state-regulated crannets.

Simon Jenkins

Chunnel cuts it too fine

Michael Dynes tells how safety was compromised

Despite the elaborate precautions taken to protect the Channel Tunnel against earthquakes, fire, terrorist attacks and rabies, Eurotunnel officials will be aware that the sky has suddenly become black with chickens that have come home to roost.

The fire which raged for more than 12 hours on one of the company's HGV wagons has clearly caught Eurotunnel off guard. Although there was no loss of life or serious injury, the safety system did not work as effectively as it should.

The inquiry into what went wrong will have to address a number of pressing questions. What caused the fire in the first place? Was the vehicle where the blaze started carrying proscribed flammable material?

The ten-man Anglo-French Channel Tunnel safety authority, set up in 1987 to ensure the highest possible safety standards, met hastily yesterday to begin looking for answers.

While the contractors were still digging out the mud, the Channel Tunnel safety authority began investigating the safety, transportation and communications systems. In great secrecy, many thousands of detailed technical documents were prepared by the authority's experts.

There can be little doubt, however, that the way the tunnel was designed and built complicated the safety authority's task.

The semi-enclosed design was derived from Alpine rail tunnels, where lorries, cars and coaches have been carried without a single serious incident since the 1960s.

At the time, Brian Martin, then head of the safety authority's UK delegation, told *The Times*: "Eurotunnel's [final] proposal is likely to be safer than the revised design. But it is likely to be less safe than the original."

Eurotunnel always knew that its decision to order semi-enclosed rolling stock meant a significantly greater risk of fire spreading rapidly.

Scott free?

THERE is dry sherry on the carpet in Kensington and Chelsea, where the fate of Nicholas "Scott" Scott, resident MP and connoisseur of pills, has still to be decided by local Tories.

Constituency members are livid after being circulated with a newsletter from their chairman informing them that Scott has requested a special meeting on December 2 in Kensington Town Hall.

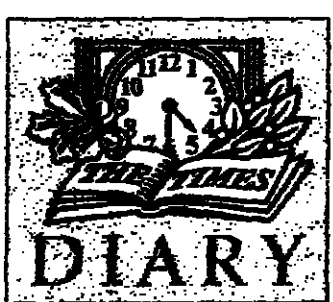
"This will be the first time ever that Kensington and Chelsea has in effect held a deselection committee," says one peppy Tory.

mention this local difficulty. It's disgusting. They must still think he'll be able to keep the seat warm for Chris Patten's return after the election.

CHILDISHNESS is being inflicted on Maidenhead's Conservatives by Theresa May, their prospective parliamentary candidate.



"Looks like we're passing over the Chunnel..."



date. A series of goo-goo press releases has been issued on her behalf. For example: "Prime Minister helps Theresa May celebrate 40th birthday: Life begins at 40 and Theresa May... got her birthday off to a good start on September 27 when the Prime Minister helped her celebrate and blow out the candles on her cake."

It gets worse. "Theresa May meets Norwegian vigneron in Littlewick Green" is a Trump-tonesque tale not worth the telling.

THESE are good times for George "Dodie" Rylands, 94. Fellow of King's College, Cambridge and former heart-throb of the Bloomsbury set. On Sunday evening, his life and Shakespearean scholarship were celebrated at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket.

THE FIRE in the Chunnel caused a number of difficulties for Eurostar's promotions team. Not least their hopes of winning the race for the Beaujolais nouveau. They had decided that the direct shuttle service to the middle of France via Lille offered the best hope of coming first in the tired old event.

Plans to take wine-bibbers to Lyons today were abandoned, dining bookings were cancelled and hopes of pressing a bottle of the



Taylor, Peacock and Fortensky: choose two

newly released vinegar into journalists' hands at midnight went by the way.

rather more like Miss Taylor's most recent husband, Larry Fortensky.

Do not expect to find any Tom Cruise fans in the vicinity of Luton Hoo, the Bedfordshire stately home. Eyes Wide Shut, his latest movie - directed by Stanley Kubrick and also starring Mrs Cruise, Nicole Kidman - has overrun its filming schedule, meaning there will be no Christmas craft fair at the house.

P.H.S

Liz or Larry?

BETTY BOOTHROYD'S showbiz background got the better of her yesterday. The former Tiller girl was calling on Elizabeth Peacock, Conservative MP for Bailey and Spent, to ask a question, when her usually faultless delivery short-circuited: she called the lady "Elizabeth Taylor".

No beau

THE FIRE in the Chunnel caused a number of difficulties for Eurostar's promotions team. Not least their hopes of winning the race for the Beaujolais nouveau. They had decided that the direct shuttle service to the middle of France via Lille offered the best hope of coming first in the tired old event.

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THIRD-BEST BUDGET

Without a tough Budget, Clarke will have to raise interest rates

The most important boast that Kenneth Clarke can make when he presents his Budget is that the problems he faces as Chancellor are the problems of success. Mr Clarke has presided over Britain's transformation from the weakest to the strongest economy in Europe. The main problems which Britain now faces — modestly accelerating inflation, an over-expensive currency and interest rates which are now higher than in any other advanced economy — are minor in comparison with the long-term stagnation afflicting Germany, France and Japan.

Mr Clarke was, of course, lucky to have moved into the Treasury after Norman Lamont had made many of the tough decisions that were needed to fill the gaping hole in the Government's finances left by the ERM recession. But Mr Clarke deserves credit for having pressed on with Mr Lamont's unpopular programme of public spending cuts and increasing taxes — and for the generally good judgment he has shown in managing interest rates.

The question now is whether Mr Clarke can live up to the fine record he himself has set. The best policy for a country to pursue when confronted with the twin problems of accelerating inflation and a rapidly rising currency is clear. It is to reduce the Government's budget deficit by substantially cutting public spending. Cuts in public spending release resources for the private sector and dampen down inflation, making it possible to reduce interest rates and thereby take upward pressure off the pound. But the Government's loss of self-confidence, combined with the electoral timetable, seems to have precluded the kind of bold initiatives, for example in social security reform, which might have produced big reductions in public spending — as opposed to mere reductions in its rate of growth.

If really substantial spending cuts are off the political agenda, Mr Clarke must reach for the second-best instrument to manage demand and keep inflation under control: he must either raise interest rates or increase taxes. Nobody likes paying taxes and an increase in taxes may be considered a

course of despair, particularly for a Tory Government. Yet tax increases can sometimes be far less damaging to the economy than higher interest rates. Mr Clarke should be the first to recognise this, having carried through so successfully Mr Lamont's post-ERM strategy of sharply raising taxes and sharply reducing interest rates.

On present tax and spending policies, the Government will continue to run a large budget deficit as far ahead as the eye can see, putting an ever-greater burden of public debt on future generations. Higher taxes must be considered a serious option. In the present circumstances, with British interest rates already higher than in any other advanced economy, with the pound rising rapidly and with exports, manufacturing and investment still playing a weak part in the economy's growth, higher taxes would clearly be preferable to higher interest rates — just as they proved to be in the 1993 Budget and, before that, in Sir Geoffrey Howe's controversial Budget of 1981.

But whatever the economic arguments and historic precedents may point to, Mr Clarke is unlikely to announce either a net increase in taxes or a net reduction in spending next week. The most that can be hoped is that he will maintain a tight grip on the growth of public spending and keep net tax reductions to below £2 billion. With the best and second-best policies for controlling demand and inflation apparently ruled out, the Chancellor will be left with the third-best option: a higher interest rate. The question Mr Clarke and the country will have to face in the months before the election is whether interest should continue rising, or whether a little more leeway on inflation should be allowed.

If Mr Clarke were prepared to announce really tough policies on taxes and public spending, any further increase in interest rates could be ruled out and last month's rise could even be reversed. But in the absence of a tight Budget, he will have to continue raising interest rates. The policy Mr Clarke appears to have chosen is only the third-best policy available but is better than allowing inflation to get out of control.

NIGHTMARE SCENARIO

Lessons to be learnt but Le Shuttle will go on

The devastating fire that broke out in the Channel Tunnel did not cost any lives. But it would cost an inestimable amount in loss of confidence, loss of earnings and loss of national pride in the £10 billion enterprise. The Government has properly insisted on a full inquiry, and the French Government is likely to echo this demand. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, told Parliament that tunnel services cannot be resumed until absolute safety can be guaranteed. The inferno has caused considerable damage: so intense was the heat that the train wheels were welded to the rails. It will take weeks before the tunnel can be fully repaired, and even longer before all the questions raised can be resolved.

Despite the panic and pain of the victims, the terrible speed of the conflagration and the inexplicable failure of communication between the English and French emergency services, the rescue operation on the whole seems to have worked well. The passengers were led to safety; the drills, last practised only ten days ago during a mock emergency, were properly implemented; and the rescuers courageous and quick-thinking. Events could otherwise have been far worse. This was, as safety experts said, the very "nightmare scenario" that they had dreaded: a rapidly spreading fire, emitting dense clouds of toxic smoke, breaking out close to the rear engine as the train was midway through the tunnel.

The absence of a heavier toll is retrospective justification for the insistence, during construction, on rigorous safety standards;

even if these contributed to the huge cost overruns and the delay in opening the tunnel. Nevertheless, there remain serious unanswered questions. On the technical side, it is unclear why the tunnel ventilators were not better able to clear the choking smoke that smothered several victims. The train, with engines at either end, is designed to decouple so that passengers can be pulled clear of the disaster. But this did not happen. Why did the French not contact Kent fire crews until about an hour after the accident?

The most controversial question, however, is likely to relate to the transport of highly dangerous materials through the tunnel. Polystyrene is extraordinarily toxic if it catches fire, and other substances, such as alcohol, certain chemicals and flammable materials are known fire hazards. An inspection of each cargo is impractical: the point of Le Shuttle is that it should be a virtual moving highway, able to carry whatever can legally be carried by road without hold-ups or cumbersome paperwork. There will be inevitable calls for more rigorous checks on loads and for the compartments containing heavy goods vehicles to be sealed.

The danger is that the tunnel will be seen as accident-prone: late in opening, deep in debt, already the victim of two minor accidents and now this. Such a perception would be a blow to the attempts to bolster traffic and make the best commercial use of this unique link to the Continent. Despite Monday's fire, such a perception would also be wrong.

ROW AGAINST THE TIDE

The Boat Race needs its amateur spirit restored

An outbreak of common sense is always to be welcomed. The tentative agreement between the respective rowing authorities of Oxford and Cambridge to establish ground rules for the recruitment of oarsmen is long overdue. The present "gentleman's agreement" has long been worth less than the paper it was written on.

Rowing used to be such an uncomplicated pursuit. Wholesomely amateur, it stood as the ultimate team sport where the performance of the crew depended on the power of the entire unit. It demands an astonishingly varied range of physical strength and skill. The annual contest between Oxford and Cambridge reflected those virtues and was appreciated for it. At some point a sense of proportion was lost. During the 1980s both ancient universities became increasingly ruthless in their pursuit of glory. In the process they forgot the virtues that had maintained the event since 1829.

There is a thin line between aggressive competition and creeping professionalism. Oxford stretched matters by their shameful recruitment from North America. As the film *True Blue* recounts, this has proved a contentious experience. In the last contest there was only one undergraduate in the Dark Blue boat. Meanwhile, the obscure Diploma in Social Studies has enjoyed an extraordinary boom — especially at Keble College — and may be the only course in the

Western world where the average student exceeds six foot in height. Then the Light Blues hit back. In 1994 Cambridge invented bursaries worth up to £5,000 for impoverished athletes.

This introduction of what Oxford described as "cheque-book rowing" threatened an escalation in combat to the point where academic standards were jettisoned entirely. Fortunately, it looks as if wiser heads may have prevailed. It would be thoroughly healthy if the Boat Race was once again fought between crews consisting of conventional students who balanced their sporting efforts with scholastic endeavours. In days of old a Blue could only be awarded during the first 12 terms of university life. The enormous expansion of postgraduate courses during the past 20 years would make such a rule unreasonable now, but its spirit still has much to commend it.

Some might dismiss such a view as dated. Sponsorship and massive television audiences, it is argued, demand more than the amateur tradition can provide. This misses the point entirely. Every year hundreds if not thousands of professional events grace our sporting schedule. If the Boat Race becomes just one more it will simply fade into the pack. The strength of this institution lies in its unique character. Oxford and Cambridge should use this code of conduct to preserve it.

'Let the bankers handle the money'

From Mr R. H. Wilson

Sir, I always thought that the objection on the part of William Rees-Mogg and others to the European Central Bank was primarily that it would be composed of unelected officials. Thus, monetary (and in turn fiscal) policy would be outside the control of the democratically elected representatives of the people.

I am pleased to note that, at least as far as the Bank of England is concerned ("Keep sterling safe for future generations", November 18), this objection no longer stands. Presumably, therefore, an independent European Central Bank is equally valid? It will after all be modelled on the Bundesbank and the US Federal Reserve.

It has always been a mystery to me that so many people have supported "democratic control" over monetary policy when these elected representatives of the people have decimated the currency over the years. In 1961 I could buy DM11.20 with my pound. Perhaps, though, I am underestimating the comfort value of having the Queen's head on the currency.

On the basis that EMU takes place on the back of economic convergence, an independent European Central Bank is no different from an independent Bank of England. Thus in any referendum the anti-EMU arguments are becoming less significant. Furthermore, such a referendum will probably take place at a time when UK short-term interest rates are likely to be in the region of 7 per cent and those in "inner Europe" around 5 per cent.

Who knows, somebody may point to the advantage to the UK economy of significantly lower interest rates. I wonder what the millions of mortgage holders might think?

Yours faithfully,
R. H. WILSON,
12 Inglis Road, W5,
November 11.

From Mr Mark Hardy

Sir, I believe that Llew Smith, MP (letter, November 18), misunderstands why many of the British public would like to join the European monetary union at the earliest possible moment. He writes "a single currency will oblige Britain to become a member of the European Central Bank, the executive of which will be appointed for eight years... no one will be able to remove them". That alone is one of the best reasons for joining.

The sooner MPs realise that our economy would be better run by bankers and long-term strategists, who are free from political interference and short-term electoral manipulation, the better it will be for all of us.

The success of the United States economy is, in part, due to the President and Congress not being allowed (by law) to interfere with or try and influence Alan Greenspan at the Federal Reserve. The independence of the Bundesbank has worked extremely well for Germany over the years.

Yours faithfully,
MARK HARDY,
52 Argyll Mansions,
Kings Road, SW3,
November 18.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, At least all three major parties are now committed to a referendum on the single currency (leading article, November 18) but we should not underestimate their appetite for deception.

If, for instance, our negotiating team is led by an individual, such as Kenneth Clarke, who regarding Europe seems to be contemptuous of the public will, we may find that by the time we have our chance to vote at the referendum we have been boxed into a corner because our defences outside the single currency have been undermined.

If, as Sir Roy Denman says (letter, November 16), our EU partners are clear about their destination and "Britain can no more stop this than could King Canute the tide", then we should talk and make up our minds once and for all.

We should hold a referendum as soon as possible on the question of whether or not we wish to achieve the destination that Sir Roy quotes as "fiscal, social, monetary, and ultimately political union".

If we vote "no", then the UK Government will have the duty to negotiate a relationship with the EU as close to the Common Market concept we voted for at the last referendum as can be achieved, consistent with the re-establishment of our independent democracy but with the latter taking priority.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8,
November 18.

From Mr Michael Hart

Sir, The arrival of another grandchild seems to have wondrously demised Lord Rees-Mogg's vision of the future. The euro "would not be as good as the mark, but it might be better than an inflationary pound". Precisely. Which is why it is likely to be more risky to stay out of the single currency than to go in.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HART,
49 Chesterfield Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
November 18.

League tables as guide to schools

From the Headmaster of St Hugh's School, Faringdon

Sir, I am saddened by the observations on academic league tables by Dr John Rae, a former Head Master of Westminster School ("A triumph for parental choice", November 18).

Dr Rae acknowledges the limitations and inconsistencies of what I, along with many others, regard as flawed statistics, yet claims that they are "so useful to parents selecting a school".

Far from being the "triumph for parental choice", league tables are threatening to do great disservice to the cause of education. Many decisions about the opportunities available to pupils are now being made from a fear of their perceived effect on league-table positions rather than from a consideration of how best to help the individual: this is true of academic options and of the wider aspects of education alike.

Luckily, those of us who work in preparatory schools know that most parents are too perceptive to fall for the simplistic argument that good A-level results this year promise similar attainments for pupils six or more years ahead — or that good academic results are obtainable only in self-professed "academic" schools.

Choice of schools is never easy for parents, who can do no better than visualise their children's likely performance in any environment. For those such as Dr Rae to suggest that flawed league tables offer serious guidance is at best sad, at worst cruelly misleading. Far greater wisdom is encapsulated in the heading lower down the same page: "Parents should trust their instincts more." That in the end is the only way.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK CANNON,
Headmaster, St Hugh's School,
Carswell Manor,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire,
November 18.

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, John Rae claims that Labour is "equivocal" on whether the amount of information given in league tables should be limited rather than increased. He is wrong.

Labour would continue to publish the raw exam results for schools. However, we would add more information to performance tables, enabling parents and teachers to compare a school's performance in one year with that in previous years and to examine how well a school has performed, given the standards achieved by their 11-year-old intake.

A school where the average pupil aged 11 had a reading age of nine will do well to achieve average GCSE results, but one where the average pupil had a reading age of 13 on entry would have done very poorly with the same results. Parents should have this information too.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons.

From Mr Alasdair L. McClure

Sir, If "Academic league tables have become a vital aid", why don't they exist in, say, the German education system, which historically (and certainly since 1945) has outperformed our own system?

One reason I think is that all German schools (academic, technical and vocational) are funded sufficiently well to assure parents that their child/children receive the best possible education compatible with their abilities. Most German parents that I've spoken to in explaining the idea of league tables find the idea preposterous not to say warped.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. McCLURE,
282 Smedley Street West,
Matlock, Derbyshire,
November 18.

Citizenship bar on civil servants

From the Joint General Secretary of the Public Services Tax and Commerce Union

Sir, Mr Geoffrey Crawford is to be congratulated on his appointment as the Queen's new press secretary (report, November 19). As an Australian citizen, had he joined the Royal Household after June this year, he would have been barred from taking up the post under new rules introduced by the Government which prevent Irish and Commonwealth citizens from holding any post where a special relationship of allegiance to the Crown is considered to be a requirement for the job.

The Civil Service unions are campaigning against this recent change to the Civil Service nationality rules which clearly sends the message to Commonwealth and Irish citizens that they can no longer be trusted to administer the affairs of Her Majesty's Government.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE BROOKE,
Joint General Secretary,
Public Services Tax and Commerce Union,
5 Great Suffolk Street, SE1,
November 19.

Establishment rebuff

From Mr M. Al Fayed

Sir, Many hard things have been said about me, but it is cruel beyond measure to imply that I am seeking acceptance by "the Establishment" ("Al Fayed set sights on revenge after takeover report", November 14). I am not seeking acceptance by any self-perpetuating caste. I only wish to share the nationality of my four British children.

I do not wish to receive honours or titles, I never go to fashionable restaurants and I cannot remember the last time I attended a reception or society gathering that was not directly connected with my commercial concerns. My interests are my family, my companies and my staff. I serve all my customers well — not just those who consider themselves to be the Establishment.

I have never kept the receipts of any journalist visiting L'Hôtel Ritz in Paris: nor did I put up the £7.8 million to keep Canova's statue *The Three Graces* in this country, though I offered to do so if no one else would foot the bill. I did not make a donation to the Hampton Court restoration fund, though I have admired the completed work and was pleased to present a promotion in my store on behalf of the Royal School of Needlework which is housed in the palace.

I am proud of my Egyptian origins but I love this country, even if that is unfashionable. Without wishing to boast, I should point out that my estate in Scotland is 50,000 acres, not 30,000: I recently enlarged it, not least in order that I might get even further away from the goings-on of some of the MPs who make up a decaying "Establishment" I would never join.

Yours faithfully,
M. AL FAYED,
(Chairman), Harrods,
87/135 Brompton Road, SW1,
November 15.

Quality of MPs' debate on gun law

From Mr Michael Bartlett

Sir, "For good or ill, the Dunblane parents terrorised the Commons yesterday", argues Matthew Parris in his *Political Sketch* today. His coolness amid the passion engendered by the handgun debate can only be welcomed.

Legislation must come through sensible and thorough consultation and debate. Parliament's role is to be able to step back from a tragedy such as Dunblane and after careful deliberation, and without emotional involvement, either pass laws which will work, or conclude that some things are beyond its power. This is how MPs serve us, and it is not always a task to be relished.

The real "feel good" factor is provided by the MPs who voted to ban all handguns, presumably in the belief that that would be that. I believe murdering children has always been illegal, but tragically, this law too will always be broken.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BARTLETT,
Flat 4, 297 Trinity Road, SW18,
November 19.

From Lady Beauchamp

Sir, My dictionary defines a debate as "the formal presentation and opposition of a specific motion, followed by a vote". The implication of this is that those present at the debate listen to the arguments and vote after they have considered the merits of the opposing views expressed.

Parliament is supposed to be the best debating chamber in the world. How strange therefore that during the debate on the abolition of handguns yesterday, the chamber was less than a quarter full. Yet, as you report today, the division showed that 387 Members voted.

As the so-called debate on the subject of the motion clearly had no impact on the result of the vote, all MPs might just as well stay at home for all the motions that come before the House and fax their votes direct to the tellers.

Yours faithfully,
MARGOT BEAUCHAMP,
The Coach House,
4 Balfour Mews,
Sidmouth, East Devon,
November 19.

Churchyard history

From Mr Richard Smart

Sir, It is good to learn that information from some 25,000 war memorials is being collected by the Imperial War Museum and transferred to a database which will soon be accessible to the public (letters, November 4). There is also, however, a huge amount of information of importance to genealogists and family historians in the form of perhaps ten million non-military gravestones in our country's churchyards and burial grounds, most of which are unrecorded and crumbling into decay and illegibility.

Many groups, notably family history societies, are recording the information from them on a local basis before it is too late.

The task is a massive one. There are no accurate figures of the total

number of memorials or how many have been recorded (perhaps 10 per cent?)

Would it not be a splendidly appropriate project for the millennium to mobilise groups of people all over the country to go out into the churchyards and burial grounds and rescue this unique source of information before it is too late? Even better if modern information technology, the computerised database, were harnessed to the task of making easily accessible to the public the unique genealogical information preserved by one of the most ancient — inscriptions on stone.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SMART,
(Field of History),
De Montfort University Bedford,
Polhill Avenue, Bedford,
November 11.

Jam tomorrow

From Ms Jill Leyland

Sir, Your leading article commenting on future traffic flows (November 19) suggests that traffic volume is set to double from its present 25 million vehicles to 50 million by the year 2025.

Since the current population of this country is around 58 million and unlikely to grow much, if at all, by that date, who is going to be driving all these vehicles?

Are we assuming a reduction in the driving age to five years, that all schoolchildren will have their own Mercedes and that we will have no use for public transport? And are all these vehicles going to be on the road all the time?

I suggest a more careful look at these traffic forecasts.

Yours faithfully,
JILL LEYLAND (Consultant economist and statistician),
Bracken Ridge, 32 Birchwood Road,
Potts Wood, Kent,
November 19.

Gurkhas deserve better

From Miss Lara Grieve

Sir, Air Vice-Marshal Edward Crew (letter, November 15) rightly labels the intended treatment of Gurkhas posted here as mean and shabby.

I have just returned from a two-week trek with the Gurkha Welfare Trust inspecting schools and primary healthcare centres for ex-Gurkhas and their dependants. Not only are the facilities basic — some would say primitive — but I learnt that many of the pensioners have to trek over tough country for three days to the payment centre and then back with their monthly pension which, at barely 15 per cent of the rate enjoyed by British soldiers, is meagre even by Nepalese standards.

If we can contemplate funding an expensive military exercise to help in Zaire (however humanitarian) surely we can and should look after the Gurkhas well and fairly on all fronts when they have given so much to us for so long.

Yours faithfully,
LARA GRIEVE,
Stoke Lodge,
Clee Down, Ludlow, Shropshire,
November 15.

Library funding

From Dr J. R. Mason

Sir, May I add my voice to Mr F. Harrowell's (letter, November 15) pleading for MPs to campaign for the retention of local libraries?

The assurance given by Ms Anne Campbell, MP, on behalf of Information for All (letter, November 11), that everyone, wherever they live, will have access to the full range of electronic information services via the library service, can carry little weight with residents living in the Mill Road area of her Cambridge constituency, where her own Labour Party, in coalition with Liberal Democrats, shut down their library in March in the year of its centenary.

No doubt Ms Campbell's county council colleagues would lay the blame for the closure on the under-funding of local government by central government, but local residents, who have challenged county council costings and believe the library could be financed from within the county's libraries' budget, now join the "have nots", not merely in respect of information technology but of all the services offered by the library.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. MASON,
77 Tenison Road, Cambridge,
November 18.

Fit for the job?

From Mrs Helen Tarnay

Sir, What a godsend to the Letters page! Your readers, I am sure, will be delighted to nominate those whose genius would have been lost to the world of art, letters, humanities, science, politics, sport etc. had their employment been conditional on an alcohol blood test (report, "Executive tests for drink diagnosis that cost job", November 12; letter, November 18).

I am happy to start the ball rolling with the late, great Winston Churchill.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN TARNAY,
Gale,
Chelwood Gate, West Sussex,
November 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 19: The Prime Minister of Belize was received by The Queen.
His Excellency Mr. Justus Paleckis was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his Predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Lithuania to the Court of St James's.



The Royal Family of Monaco reviewing the Monégasque national parade yesterday. From left: Prince Rainier, Prince Albert, Princess Caroline, Prince Albert, Princess Stéphanie. The three children are Princess Caroline's.

Memorial services

Sir Jeremy Rowe
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Jeremy Rowe, industrialist, was held yesterday at St Marylebone Parish Church. The Rev Richard McLaren officiated.

Luncheons

Liverpool Consular Corps
The Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and the President of the Manchester Consular Association attended a luncheon of the Liverpool Consular Corps held at the Liverpool Raquet Club yesterday to mark 50 years of consular service in Liverpool by Consul-General Thomas V. Anthony (Dominion Republic), Consul David Beazley (Sweden), president of the corps, and Consul Anthony Brown (Iceland) and Vice-Consul Hilary Gatenby (Dominican Republic) welcomed the guests.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. Bance and Miss M.R. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Alexander, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Roger Bance, of Long Ditton, Surrey, and Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Miles Taylor, of Rimington, Lancashire.

Birthdays today

Mr M.C. Alexander, writer, 70; Lord Archer of Sandwell, QC, 70; The Hon. Hugh Astor, former deputy chairman, The Times, 70; Mr P.G. Badger, Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, 65; Mr Gareth Chilcott, rugby player, 40; Mr Wallace Clark, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, 70; Mr Edward J. Cook, KBE, journalist and broadcaster, 82; Brigadier B.T.V. Cowey, former rugby player, 85; Mr R.M. Francis, art historian, 49; Sir Alan Goodison, diplomat, 70; Miss Nadine Gormley, author, 73; Mr Dulcie Gray, actress and author, 76; Mrs Penelope Hobhouse, horticulturist, 67; The Earl of Home, 53; Mr Aubrey Jones, former MP, 85; Mr Piara Khabra, MP, 72; Sir Michael Latham, former MP, 54; Mr J.A.S. McPherson, 73; Lieutenant of Grampian Region, 69; Sir Richard Morris, chemical engineer, 71; Sir David Price, former MP, 72; Mr A.M. Rees, former Chief Constable, Derbyshire, 84; Mrs Smith, 24; Mr Wilfred Wooler, cricketer and rugby player, 84.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Chatterton, the 'boy poet', Bristol, 1732; Edwin Hubble, astronomer, Marshfield, Missouri, 1889; Abraham Tudor, writer, Dorling, Surrey, 1774; Anton Rubinstein, pianist and composer, Peterhof, Russia, 1829; Count Leo Tolstoy, writer, 1910; Alexander, Queen Consort of King Edward VII, Sandringham, 1925; John Rushworth Jellicoe, 1st Earl Jellicoe, Admiral of the Fleet, Kensington, 1935; Francisco Franco, dictator of Spain 1939-75, Madrid, 1975; Simón Bolívar declared Venezuela independent from Spain, 1811; Charles Stewart Rolls and Frederick Henry Royce formed Rolls-Royce, 1906.

Anniversaries

DEATHS: Abraham Tudor, writer, Dorling, Surrey, 1774; Anton Rubinstein, pianist and composer, Peterhof, Russia, 1829; Count Leo Tolstoy, writer, 1910; Alexander, Queen Consort of King Edward VII, Sandringham, 1925; John Rushworth Jellicoe, 1st Earl Jellicoe, Admiral of the Fleet, Kensington, 1935; Francisco Franco, dictator of Spain 1939-75, Madrid, 1975; Simón Bolívar declared Venezuela independent from Spain, 1811; Charles Stewart Rolls and Frederick Henry Royce formed Rolls-Royce, 1906.

Lecture

ISVA/Hampton International
Mr Christopher Jones, CBE, delivered the Hampton Lecture yesterday at the ISVA, the professional society for Valuers and Auctioneers, in conjunction with Hampton International. The title of the lecture was 'Foresight - Hindsight - Insight'.

The College of Estate Management

The President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Mr Jeremy Bayliss, presented Diplomas in Surveying and gave an address to successful students of the College last Saturday. Mr Martin Ralph was awarded the prize for the most distinguished student of the year. The Chairman of the College, Mr John Furry, and the College Principal, Mr Peter Goodacre, each gave an address.

Dulwich College

The Governors of Dulwich College, London SE21, are pleased to announce that Sir Robin Butler, Brigadier G.B. Curtis, Mr R.H.N. Dashedwood, Mr P. Griffin, Alderman Sir Brian Jenkins and Mr M.L.I. Marshall.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
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TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS
BEVEN Barbara Joan, nee Folly, 80, died on November 18th 1996. Aged 78 years. Deceased wife of R.L. (Raymond) Beven (died 1941). Loved and loved by Betty and Gordon. Buried at St. Paul's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Paul's Church, London. Mrs Beven died peacefully on November 18th 1996. Aged 78 years. Deceased wife of R.L. (Raymond) Beven (died 1941). Loved and loved by Betty and Gordon. Buried at St. Paul's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Paul's Church, London.

DEATHS
BIRNBERG - On 16th November, at the age of 82, died peacefully at home, Mrs Birnberg, nee Goldstein. Aged 82 years. Deceased wife of Mr Birnberg. Buried at St. Paul's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Paul's Church, London.

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Advertisement for 'We'll fit one tomorrow Straight up' featuring a staircase and contact information for '0800 19 19 19'. Includes text about free installation and satisfaction guarantee.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring 'MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS', '100's', 'MIDWINTER RENDEZVOUS', and 'DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED'. Includes various small ads and contact details.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR BRYAN KEITH-LUCAS

Bryan Keith-Lucas, CBE, Professor of Government, University of Kent, 1965-77, died on November 7 aged 84. He was born on August 1, 1912.

Bryan Keith-Lucas took an unfashionable area of the British constitution and made it his own. Yet his interest in local government, especially in parish councils and the historic boroughs and counties of England, was not solely academic.

Bryan Keith-Lucas was born at Fen Ditton, the son of the Cambridge physiologist Dr Keith Lucas, FRCS. He was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he read history and then economics.

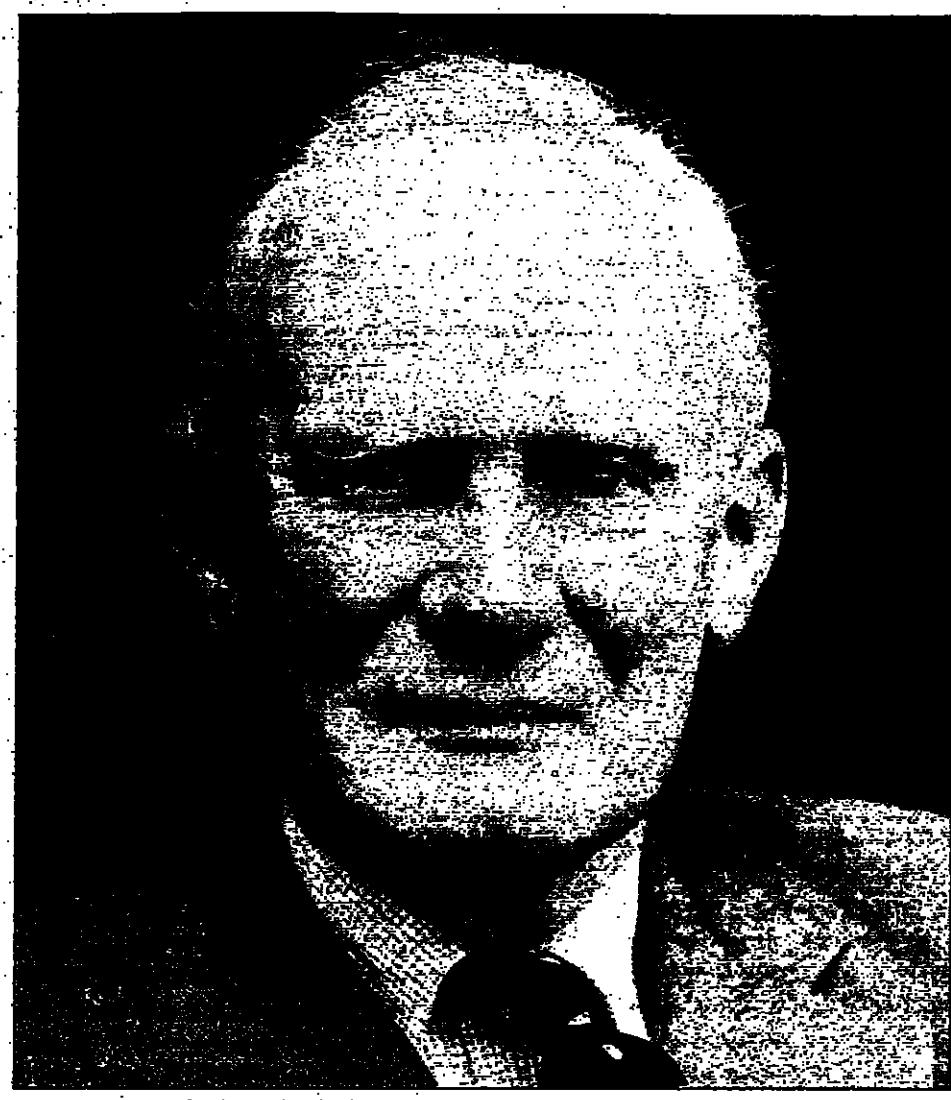
dispatches and ended the war as a major serving as DAAG in Cyprus.

At the end of the war he moved from Kensington to Nottinghamshire County Council and then in 1948 he switched from local government to academic life, becoming a senior lecturer in local government at Oxford.

Keith-Lucas was a meticulous researcher who rediscovered long-forgotten characters and issues from the neglected county archives and gave them new life.

From his perspective, modern allegations of sleaze in public life had established precedents. In his work The Unreformed Local Government System (1980) he wrote of the state of the boroughs prior to 1835 that they were starting in their 'corruption and mismanagement'.

Being well aware of the dangers as well as the merits of local democracy, Keith-Lucas was ideally placed to advise governments. In 1954 he went to Sierra Leone to chair a committee on the electoral system.



appointed to the Local Government Commission for England. Keith-Lucas was closely involved in establishing two new institutions of higher education. As a Faculty Fellow of the young Nuffield College at Oxford and from 1957 to 1965 its domestic bursar, he helped to create an environment in which practising politicians

felt free to test their ideas with leading political scientists and theoreticians. Then, on moving to the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1965 as the first Professor of Government, he set out to recreate the atmosphere of Oxford collegiate life in a modern campus setting. In 1970 he became the first Master of Darwin College.

The hospitality of Keith-Lucas and his wife Mary will be recalled with pleasure by hundreds of undergraduates and visiting academics. He would delight in recounting how their garden was an old burial ground and their home had once served as a 'penny-eight' doss house.

ANDREW HUTCHINGS

Andrew Hutchings, CBE, former general secretary of the Assistant Masters Association, died on October 30 aged 88. He was born on December 3, 1907.

Andrew Hutchings served longer at the helm of a teachers' organisation than probably any other teaching union leader. When he retired in 1978 he had completed 39 years as general secretary of the Incorporated Association of Assistant Masters in Secondary Schools - more commonly known as the Assistant Masters Association.

He joined the teaching profession after reading mathematics and economics at St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Appointed to the staff of Methodist College, Belfast, he was soon representing his colleagues in Northern Ireland and gained a reputation as a skilful negotiator.

He made significant contributions to what proved a period of unprecedented change and turmoil. Between 1941 and 1943 he was part of an official investigation into the state of the curriculum and examinations in secondary schools (the Norwood committee).

Flowing from this inquiry was a report which set a new standard in the great education debates that took place during the consensus years after the war.

Teachers were at the heart of that debate and for more than 13 years Hutchings chaired the negotiating body which determined their pay and conditions - the teachers' panel of the Burnham committee. Skill alone is not enough to explain how he held the chair for so long.

Throughout his years of union office, Hutchings never ran into the pressures of internal union politics. He deconstructed factions before they had even thought to form. He was a brilliant and charismatic speaker who never used notes, but with an immaculate sense of timing and mood, could combine playing to the gallery without ever losing touch with the serious political agendas of the times.

For a time either side of his retirement he was chairman of the National Federation of Educational Research (NFER), the country's major contributor to inquiries into educational standards, teaching methods and objectives. In part this was a just recognition of Hutchings's own contribution to education during the previous 40 years.

A founder member of the Associated Examining Board in 1955, he chaired its executive committee throughout the 1960s. He was vice-chairman of the board when the GCSE replaced O levels and the CSE examination, and until his death he held the honorary position of vice-president.

Having spent 20 years associated with the International Federation of Secondary Teachers which he had helped to set up, Hutchings was also a well known and respected figure abroad. He served 11 of those years as secretary-general and spent two spells as the federation's president.

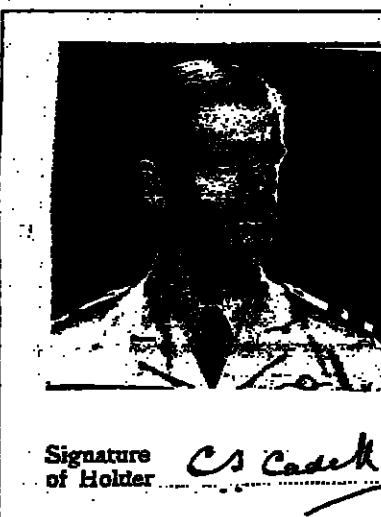
A keen member of the Kennel Club, he was famous for his love of dogs. In partnership with his longstanding friend Norman Blagrave, he bred first Great Danes and (more recently) French bulldogs, some of which were shown successfully at Crufts.

Elected a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland in 1963, in 1975 he was created a Fellow of the College of Preceptors. Two years later he was appointed CBE.

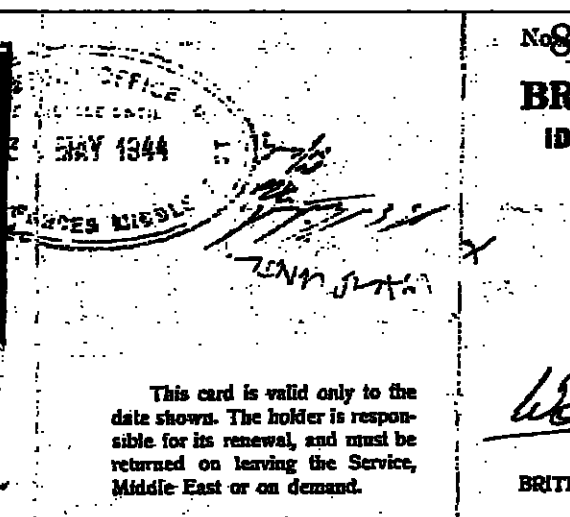
COLIN CADELL

Colin Cadell, CBE, electronic engineer, died on October 29 aged 91. He was born on August 7, 1905.

AS AN RAF officer during the Second World War, Colin Cadell revealed an expertise in the field of electronics which made him a natural choice for Intelligence work. Though he often hankered after active service, he spent much of the war in the Air Ministry.



of radar, facing the challenge of how to improve its efficiency in Allied hands while simultaneously devising counter-measures to make it much less useful to the enemy.



gained a scholarship to the Ecole Supérieure d'Electricité in Paris. He passed out with honours, and a signals posting might have been expected. But Cadell instead accepted an appointment as ADC to Sir

delighted to have the opportunity to be back flying planes. But when in 1947 he was invited by his wartime boss, Air Marshal Sir Victor Tait, to join him working in the civilian sector, Cadell retired from the RAF with the rank of air commodore.

Recognising the urgent need for a reliable organisation to provide worldwide air safety services for passenger flights, they founded International Aeradio in London (IAL).

During the Second World War the intense secrecy demanded of Cadell together with the round-the-clock duties expected, put him under enormous pressure. More than once he applied for active service but his skill was too valuable and each time he was refused, except when he was posted for a few months in 1943 to Cairo as Chief Signals Officer, Middle East.

From 1944 to 1945, as director of telecommunications and then as director of signals, he had a hand in almost every aspect of war in the air and his services were recognised in 1944 when he was appointed CBE.

After the end of the war Cadell returned to live with his family in Scotland where he served as AOC 66 Group throughout 1946. He was



ON THIS DAY

November 20, 1850

Work on Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace was begun on September 26. The structure needed 4,000 tons of iron, 400 of glass and 600,000 cubic feet of wood.

interfere to secure for it decorations which may harmonize with its graceful proportions and the flood of light which is to be poured in through its transparent walls and roof.

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The great undertaking grows space. Since our last account of its progress a wonderful advance has been made. The long drawn aisles and terraced elevations spring forth under the eye of the visitor and the immense transept stands ready to receive the arched roof which is to crown it...

ON THIS DAY

November 20, 1850

Work on Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace was begun on September 26. The structure needed 4,000 tons of iron, 400 of glass and 600,000 cubic feet of wood.

How to preserve the commission's aura of niceness

Cosy head for a cut-throat world

Cut-throat and "competition" usually go hand in hand. One of the many paradoxes of British broadcasting is the general air of niceness prevailing at the top of the Independent Television Commission, while over at the non-commercial cultural bastion of the BBC, bad blood reigns. The BBC staff think John Birt is "more repulsive than right", according to John Simpson, the BBC's foreign editor, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, and he is one of Birt's winners.

Perhaps the real enigma of the ITC, which regulates commercial television, is the personality of the outgoing chairman, Sir George Russell. How can a man be so much, yet be so unassuming? He has headed the ITC since 1990, and its predecessor, the Independent Broadcasting Authority, since 1989. Since 1993 he has been non-executive chairman of Marley Television and of the 3i Group, and since 1995, of the Camelot Group, which runs the National Lottery. Earlier, he served as chief executive of everything from Marley to Alcan Aluminium, tucking in meanwhile other public service stints on the IBA, Channel 4, ITN and the Northern Industrial Development Board, to name but a few.



BRENDA MADDOX

For a brief moment last year, Sir George looked as if he might be the man to spread sweetness and light as new chairman of the troubled BBC. But his appointment to Camelot ruled that out. Now, at 61, due to leave the ITC by the end of the year, he seems to have no wish to carry on regulating.

The Department of National Heritage is taking a long time to reveal the name of the successor. Even the Labour Party seems to have been consulted — a nice bit of bipartisanship not exhibited when Sir Christopher Bland was given the BBC chairmanship. But who would want the job? The ITC chairmanship pays only about £63,000 a year, in contrast to the BBC chairman's £80,000. What's more, it looks as if all the hard decisions have been taken. Sir George presided over the handing out of the ITC (Channel 3) regional franchises in 1993 and the new Channel 5 franchise in 1995. Over both contracts, he and the ITC were challenged in court, and won.

The next chairman will not, thank God, have to conduct another franchise round. All the existing ITV licence holders have ten licences, for which they can reapply for renewal as soon as 1998. They might in time seek some levelling-out of the different sums they have to pay to broadcast. But the conditions for such realignment are laid

down by law. So what's left to be done? Maybe the new man (and I'm reliably informed it will be a man) will have nothing to do but steer.

Unless you remember that the ITC has to police cable and satellite as well as terrestrial television, and that its job, on both sides of the divide, includes that of promoting fair competition. This job is going to get tougher as these new channels proliferate.

Keeping the rules fair and clear between satellite and cable is no easy matter. Any day now, for example, the ITC will launch an inquiry into Sky Television's sales package called "bundling". Cable operators protest that Sky (partly owned by News International, owners of *The Times*) refuses to allow them to offer their subscribers the popular Disney Channel unless these consumers also buy two pay-TV film channels as well.

At the same time the ITC must keep both cable and satellite channels from violating its rules on acceptability in programmes and advertising. Yet it must allow them, as specialised services purchased by consumers, more latitude than is allowed free, or on terrestrial television.

The television commission's hardest task may be to clarify to the public why cable and satellite channels are regulated more lightly than terrestrial television is — on news, on the 9pm watershed, on educational, children's and religious programmes. The commission, in other words, applies dual standards. That there should be looser rules for pay channels of which there is no scarcity is not an easy or popular idea to get across.

Then there is still the ITC's main job: preserving competition between the ITV companies, which is still the most popular channel in Britain. The commission must remain vigilant at keeping free advertising off the screen, as a service to advertisers as well as viewers.

On every channel, it will have to crack down on bad language. People now care more, not less, about the deterioration in the currency of acceptable speech. Were that not enough, the ITC must supervise its corner of the newly sprung thicket of digital terrestrial television.

All in all, there is plenty for the new chairman to do in a tough, niggling job that lacks the grandeur of the BBC chairmanship yet carries the risks of landing up in court. Let us hope that whoever gets the job will be able to preserve the commission's aura of niceness. Commercial television is, in itself, not a cosy business.

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Royal humour causes dread

AS THE Christmas party season approaches, staff at the Duke of York's home, Sunninghill, are apparently consumed with dread. The source of their anxiety is not whether they should mention the Duchess's cringing performance on the BBC's *Ruby Wax* show, but having to endure another of the Duke's "excruciating" speeches.

Each year the Duke and Duchess stage a party to thank their staff for putting up with what must be one of the least sought-after jobs in the country. However, they are hoping the Duke will improve on his speech last year, which made many squirm with embarrassment.

"What says 'Morning, Morning, Morning'?" asked the Duke as his final crescendo. "A mole in Fred West's garden," beamed the Duke to stunned silence.

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THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

PROVING that media executives rarely learn by their mistakes, Live TV has invited BBC cameras back into its offices for a sequel to the compelling if damning *Nightmare At Canary Wharf*.

A year after BBC2 screened the documentary, which recorded the flagging fortunes of the Mirror Group's TV station and the hellish problems of its then first lady Janet Street-Porter, we are to be treated to New Brown, a film about Kelvin MacKenzie's current reign. The 40-minute feature forms part of a new series on company directors. The same crew that recorded *Street-Porter* shrieking "If they tell me one more time why it's not working, I'll throw the phone out of the fucking window", has now followed Mr News Bunn around his revamped empire, apparently recording some of his less than flattering remarks about other executives.



Douglas senior position

man where her friend and mentor Andrew Neil was recently recruited by the Barclay Brothers to become the group's Editor-in-Chief. It was Neil who recommended Douglas for the *Express* job and it was Neil who lamented her exit from Ludgate House, remarking "Sue Douglas will make a brilliant editor one day."

WHAT can have happened to give rise to the deluge of key BBC figures who have stood up this week to give praise for the reforms of John Birt? First we had the Beeb's war

veteran John Simpson waxing lyrical in *The Sunday Telegraph*, closely followed by the director of programmes Alan Yentob who, in his inaugural *Bafta* lecture, spoke of the painful-but-necessary changes brought about by Saint Birt. Yesterday Sir Christopher Bland addressed the Westminster Media Forum on the advances of the digital age and today Will Weist speaks to the Media Society about how British broadcasting represents great value for money. Could this be in any way linked to the fact that a decision on whether to grant an increase in the licence fee is being made next week? Surely not.



Evans appreciated

Evans in favour

AT LAST the poor, put-upon Chris Evans has found favour with a broadcasting watchdog. The man who has had no fewer than eight complaints upheld against him has emerged victorious from another run-in with the Independent Television Commission over his anarchic Channel 4 programme *TFI Friday*.

Viewers complained about a scene in which Evans brandished a powerdrill and proceeded to make holes in furniture to illustrate his spending

habits. Parents claimed it set a bad example to children. But for once the ITC was on Evans's side. A spokesman said it was all part of the Evans humour. "The ITC noted that *TFI Friday*, and its presenter in particular, had a well-established reputation for idiosyncratic and wacky humour. In this instance the drill was used to develop a long-running joke about his spending habits," said a statement. "Items such as aerosols, kitchen knives etcetera pose particular problems because they are easily accessible in the home. This is not the case with power tools."

Takeaways cook up a new medium

ALTERNATIVE media are always attempting to impress themselves upon the advertising fraternity, from the bottoms of golf holes to petrol pump nozzles and even branded bins for cows. The latest entrant to challenge the traditional might of newspapers and television is the lids on top of takeaway meals, and none other than EMI is to become the first advertiser to try out the fledgling medium.

The records giant is mounting a month-long campaign with five million takeaways across the nation promoting a series of cut-price CDs and tapes, starting on November 25. The ad will incorporate the number of a 24-hour phone line for people to call direct and order their bargains.

An EMI spokesman claims all the artists involved, from Blur to Robert Palmer, have either been "highly amused" at the promotion or are "extremely supportive", which is surprising. One would have thought

there would be alarm at a close association between the fine art that is popular music and stuff that gets chucked in bins.

AN INDUSTRY initiative has been launched to encourage agencies and their clients to do job swaps, in order to improve understanding of one another's businesses.

Agency and advertiser trade associations are joining forces to organise secondments for a minimum of one month and a maximum of six months within counterpart companies.

Both bodies are to target the chief executives of the top 20 agencies and advertisers in order to promote this happy process of mutual learning.

"Advertising needs to be controlled, and systematic but at the same time inspirational, innovative and fun.

There is a danger that clients only understand the first half and agencies the second, but for good advertising to come about both sides have to be understood," says a supporter.

DESPITE protestations to the contrary, Wrangler appears to have caved in and hired an agency to "do a Levi's" with its advertising.

Last week the beleaguered jeans company appointed Abbott Mead Vickers to handle its £16 million pan-European campaign, no doubt finding irresistible the timely arrival of a new creative duo, Nick Worthington and John Gorsc, who just happened to have worked on the rival Levi's business while at Bartle Bogle Hegarty.

The pair arrived at Abbott Mead after Wrangler had put its business up for review and secured a late entry on to the pitch list for their new agency.



BELINDA ARCHER Damon Albarn, Blur's lead singer

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Gritty realism — or too much for audiences? Jane Tennison (Helen Mirren) confronts The Street (Steven Mackintosh) in *Prime Suspect V*

Is television going soft on violence?

Programme-makers fear they are being stifled in a new era of censorship, says Maggie Brown

In the new series of *Common as Muck* to be screened by the BBC in January, one of the binnmen, played by Roy Hudd, makes a bungled attempt to hang himself. It should be one of those bitter, black comic scenes which experienced producers relish and audiences watch with bated breath. But long before the scene was shot, the question of how much to show was referred upwards to an editorial policy executive. The episode was talked through in detail in a way it would not have been a year or two ago. It stayed in, but the camera did not show the act of putting up the electric flex, nor linger on the stool kicked away, in case it encouraged vulnerable imitators. That is the new convention covering screen suicide: in another BBC Sunday night drama series, *Harvest Moon* (also for the new year), about Welsh cattle drovers, a man hangs himself. Again audiences will see the effect, not the way he does it. Is this censorship — or simply a sign that the sensibilities of the audience are being considered at last? The one certainty is that screen violence and the way television can affect behaviour for the worse, remains a highly charged political issue — especially in a delicate pre-election period. Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, has called the chairmen of the BBC and ITV to a meeting on the issue early next month. "When you get horrific crimes such as Dunblane, or the knifing of a school head, it

is inevitable that people ask questions about the effects of film, video and television," says David Glencross, the former chief executive of the Independent Television Commission, which regulates commercial television. He says that the tendency has been for violent but acclaimed dramas, such as Granada's *Cracker*, or *Prime Suspect*, to get round programme guidelines by not showing the actual act of violence — the knife going in — but concentrating on the effects, like the stabbed policeman inching towards the door, as his lifeblood drains away. But the ITC, for all its formal programme code, works in a more subtle way than the BBC: it is a regulator, not a broadcaster. It is trying to influence television companies behind the scenes by quietly pointing out that the audience prefers less violence and that it is not necessary for high ratings. According to senior programme-makers, the new caution over violence, sex and bad language is most clearly seen within the BBC. There, the increased tendency to "refer upwards" is combining with a growing culture of public accountability. The result can be a brake on the work of more creative programme-makers. "It is sending a strong message to the talent that the BBC is not in the business of making programmes for people aged

over ten," says one senior producer bitterly. Piers Haggart, chairman of the Directors' Guild film and television committee, says: "It is sad, and a typically reactionary way of acting." Alan Plater, the award-winning dramatist, described in a recent newspaper article his feelings of despair in dramatising novels about an old-style copper for the corporation. He revealed how his scripts were sent off to London, with the swear words highlighted, and returned toned down. He managed to rescue the word "pillbox" only by pointing out that it was good enough for Shakespeare. The new mood also seems closely linked to the arrival of Sir Christopher Bland as a vigorous Chairman of the BBC seven months ago. His move to Broadcasting House was marked, unusually, by the publication of an open letter from Virginia Bottomley. In it she pointedly referred to his role in safeguarding standards. "Standards of taste and decency are also an issue about which there is particular public concern; and you know of Parliament's strength of feeling about the need to maintain high standards." Shortly afterwards the BBC's fledgling Programme Complaints Unit was given a higher profile, and the chairman demanded that programme-makers paid particular attention to the corrections and lessons handed out. Sources within the Broadcasting Standards Council, the taste and decency watchdog which covers all broadcasting (and which in the summer reported a perceived decline in screen violence), say privately that since Bland's arrival the BBC is far more prepared to admit it makes mistakes, rather than stand by programme-makers. All of this has been given a new focus with the publication last week of the BBC's updated guidelines to producers. It includes an expanded section on violence in drama, urging particular care in six special areas, ranging from domestic and sexual violence to suicide attempts. On strong language, it says: "Programme-makers should constantly ask themselves whether it will simply alienate a large part of the audience." It is also clear that drama reconstructions of domestic violence and murder — such as the one devoted to

Sara Thornton — would be hard to make again. Michael Chaplin, the former Head of Programmes at BBC Wales, who is now writing drama series for the BBC, says he finds nothing wrong in principle with programme-makers being asked to consider what they are doing, since they can live in an enclosed and highly privileged world. "But I would be concerned if on a whole range of artistic issues I lost substantive control." Programme guidelines started becoming generally known to the public in the late 1970s. (Though there were always internal rules; in the 1950s a BBC radio rule reportedly said the phrase "winter draws on" was suitable for the Light Programme but too rude for the Home Service or Third Programme.) Much of the debate in the 1980s, when the BBC first published its rules, covered TV journalism, especially the lessons to be drawn from footage of tragedy and disaster beamed in indiscriminately by satellite. The fear now is that these rules, factual in origin, are being extended to other programmes, including fiction, as if the events of a drama were real. Now a rule banning the camera lingering on bodies, or close-ups of distressed people, might well join faked suicides as events no longer deemed suitable for audiences. This would certainly water down dramatic impact, as the cameras retreat. But then, the boundaries of taste and decency continually shift.

'The BBC is now aimed at people aged less than ten'

Lawyers blame the press for prejudicing fair trials

A law banning payments to witnesses will cause even more problems. Richard Stott reports

Peter Bessell is a long dead and forgotten, discredited and duplicitous former Liberal MP who made you involuntarily clutch your wallet as soon as he entered a room. His greatest claim to fame was as one of the chief prosecution witnesses in the trial of Jeremy Thorpe for conspiracy to murder back in the 1970s. His reputation — such as it was — was destroyed at the trial because among other things it was revealed that *The Sunday Telegraph* had not only agreed to pay him for his story but to hang him another £25,000 if Thorpe was convicted. Now this is about as daff as you can get as well as being pretty close to contempt of court. But the whole thing has been dragged up again nearly 20 years later because Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is considering introducing legislation to ban payments to witnesses by newspapers in criminal trials. He has been stirred to act because of the number of witnesses in the Rosemary West case who had been paid by newspapers, magazines,

television and book companies. On the face of it, the Lord Chancellor's concern seems justified. How can a jury be sure that witnesses are not embroidering the truth to line their own pockets? This must be a worry that goes right to the heart of a fair trial. But does it? The Lord Chancellor's evidence to support this assertion is very thin gruel. He produces four big cases: Thorpe, Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, Peter Sutcliffe and West. Yet Thorpe is the only case in 30 years where there is any suggestion that witness payment had any effect on the jury. Even this example must be taken together with the increasingly obvious fact as the trial proceeded that Bessell was a very tricky customer indeed. In the Moors murder case the Attorney-General specifically decided that payment to



The Thorpe and West trials were a cause for concern

pay did not render the convictions unsafe. This should be enough to ensure that the Mackay plan does not hatch. With that kind of history it can hardly be the most pressing piece of legislation. But the antecedence is as nothing compared with the problems created by a non-payment law. If witnesses really are tempted to change or embellish their stories for cash before the case, imagine the position if several witnesses are vying for top dollar after the case. Are they not more likely to ginger up their memories a bit in the witness box if they know they have to compete with others at the end of the trial? Or are we to ban payment completely? If so, will that include books? A number of bestsellers would bite the dust if that were the case; accounts by rape victims and

the unjustly accused who are cleared will all be banned. It is clearly absurd. The puzzling thing about all this is why the Lord Chancellor is bothering. The cases he dredges up are few and far between and the evidence is unconvincing. It could be that lawyers are discovering that their best chance with "difficult" cases is to find a way of blaming the press for prejudicing a fair trial and the legal establishment is having problems combating it. This tactic is being used more often, from the West case to the Geoff Knights assault trial, which was abandoned because, according to the trial judge, of "outrageous, unfair and oppressive" reporting. The only trouble there was that the judge's hysterical view was not shared by the appeal court in subsequent contempt of court actions against newspapers. These were all cleared, with the Attorney-General having to fork out a fortune in legal costs. Mr Knights was, of course, free to sell his story to any newspaper that wanted to buy it. Lord Mackay will be relieved to know nobody did.

Murky dealings over Fergie book



Clive Hollick, chief executive of the United News and Media Group, returns to London from Hong Kong today to confront a serious crisis at *The Express*, the group's flagship seven-day newspaper. As Fleet Street's newest media mogul who is investing millions in the revival of *The Express*, it will be his first confrontation with the murky world of Fleet Street and the quest by editors for "spoilers" to destroy the impact of a rival newspaper's scoop. On his desk will be the report of an internal inquiry into the professional conduct of deputy editor Ian Monk, who has effectively edited *The Express* for some of the year while Editor-in-Chief, Richard Addis, has reorganised the paper into a new seven-day operation. Four other senior executives were also interviewed yesterday. The inquiry will ask how Mr Monk came to be in possession of a photocopy of a stolen copy of Allan Starkie's inside account of the secret life of Sarah, Duchess of York, due to be serialised by the *Daily Mail*. A photocopy of the book then seems to have been offered for sale to *The Sun* by Mr Monk's wife — who was arrested at Heathrow on November 1 on suspicion of theft and receiving stolen goods.

The story of how *The Express* acquired a copy of the Starkie book has damaged its reputation at a moment in its history when Mr Addis has claimed the moral high ground by joining Andrew Marr, Editor of *The Independent*, in an effort to raise standards in Fleet Street and combat the culture of "attack journalism". Yet *The Express* now stands accused of using a pilfered copy of the Starkie book in a dirty-tricks campaign to "spoil" the serialisation in the *Mail*, its main rival, destroy its impact and diminish its sales. Warring the battle for the rights to serialise the Starkie revelations against competition from *The Sun*, *News of the World* and *Daily Mirror* — *The Express* did not bid and did not therefore sign any oath of confidentiality — was a coup for Paul Dacre, Editor of the *Mail*, even though he may have suspected that the market in Fergie-mania had been saturated by the earlier revelations in the *Mirror* from "Madame Vasso". Earlier this year there had been newspaper bids of up to £450,000 for the rights to serialise the Duchess's own story — which eventually went to *Hello* for much less — but the market had fallen after the Vasso book was published. Mr Dacre got the book for only £101,000.

proofs. The letters were forged by Cox and Wynman were not even the printers of the book. The messenger was sent packing. Meanwhile there were several attempts to obtain copies of the book from the Finnish printers. One caller even pretended he was Mr O'Mara. A Finnish woman was arrested as she offered to sell a copy of the book to a British tabloid. Security in Finland was watertight but not in Pennsylvania, where the American edition was being prepared. A set of proofs leaked from the plant and arrived in the offices of *The Star*, America's mass-market weekly tabloid. Soon afterwards the book was touted in Britain. On Thursday October 31 and especially Friday November 1, the day before the *Mail's* serialisation was due to start, several illicit copies of the book were being hawked round Fleet Street. A copy of the book was faxed to Mr

'Spoilers don't spoil. It's all about editors' egos'

Addis's office on Thursday night when three photocopies were taken. Another photocopy of the proofs followed by courier next day. That was subsequently shredded on the order of Mr Addis who stood by to witness the shredding. One of the main questions before the inquiry will be how a photocopy then got into Mr Monk's briefcase. Shortly before noon next day Charles Rae, royal correspondent of the *Sun*, was called by a woman saying she had a copy of the Starkie manuscript. She denied it was stolen and said she was willing to sell it. Rae's impression was that she was Finnish but was checking her answers with another woman. *The Sun*, however, already knew that its New York correspondent would be seeing *The Star* report from the book that night. Anxious to protect its scoop, it warned Mr O'Mara that copies of the book were being offered for sale, meanwhile arranging a meeting with the woman at the Excelsior hotel. Heath-

row, and saying she would be met by the *News of the World*. Mr O'Mara rang the police who went along, and arrested Anita Monk. On Saturday, when the *Daily Mail* began its serialisation, the *Express* spoiler, mainly written by Ross Benson, was spread across three pages. As the *Mail* boasted across the top of its front page: "Fergie. The Book She Tried To Ban". *The Express* replied with a Fergie story asking: "Will She Lose Her Children?" It ran Benson's story at length and described Fergie's anguish over Starkie's "sordid book". The story rated a single column on the front of *The Sun*. Ian Monk, who moved to *The Express* with Mr Addis from the *Daily Mail* and who has a reputation as a hard-driving news man, is now helping the *Express* inquiry. There have been reports, denied by Mr Addis and Mr Monk, that he has been asked to resign with a pay-off. Yesterday, *Express* staff were rallying to his support. More than a hundred signed a petition of confidence in his journalistic ability. He said: "I am confident that any inquiry will confirm that I have done nothing which conflicts with the best journalistic interests of the *Express*." Among the questions that the inquiry will ask are how and why a copy of the pilfered book was being offered to *The Sun* at Heathrow and whether any money collected from *The Sun* was to be paid to *The Express*. It will also need to ask if Mr Monk acted with or without authorisation from Mr Addis and if there was any authorised attempt to share the spoiler with any other newspaper to spike the *Daily Mail*.

What's the difference between
Conversational French to Business French.
us and other
In your company or in our school.
French teachers?
One to one or group tuition.
We offer
For a brochure and further advice call Elisabeth Michau
0171 723 0020.
business class.
Alliance Française
Alliance Française de Londres,
1 Dorset Square,
London NW1 6PL.
Sponsored by the French Government
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NEWS

Tunnel may be disrupted for months

Channel Tunnel services could be disrupted for months after the train fire on Monday night, which left a scene of devastation in the Folkestone-bound tunnel.

As three inquiries were launched into the incident which led to 19 people being treated in hospital, senior Eurotunnel executives said they hoped that services would back to normal within four weeks. But engineers thought the work would be measured in "months rather than weeks".

Rwanda arms inquiry to report in weeks

Ministers ordered a speedy investigation into allegations that a British company sent weapons to the former Rwandan Government while its army was involved in genocide. Officials from six departments have been told to report on disclosures that Mil-Tec Corporation sent £3 million of arms.

Icy outlook

Icy winds with the possibility of sleet and torrential rain are forecast as winter comes early to Britain.

Paintings bonfire

A struggling artist who could not pay the rent on his bed-sitter lost six years work when his landlord made a bonfire of his paintings.

Woman admits killing

The killer of Rachael Lean wept as she told how she stabbed the 18-year-old student to death on a woodland path. Maria Hnatuk, 29, said the attack happened after her boyfriend said that Miss Lean "had to die".

School does better

The bottom school in the national examination league tables was praised by inspectors, who said that standards were rising even though no pupil gained five high-grade GCSEs.

£1 million case

Albert Reynolds, the former Irish Prime Minister, is out of pocket to the tune of £1 million, despite winning a libel action against The Sunday Times.

Channel Island anger

Newly released papers about the occupation of the Channel Islands show that people on Jersey and Guernsey were outraged by the extent to which local women cohabited with Germans.

Oxbridge ends gentlemen's agreement

Oxford and Cambridge universities are poised to end 168 years of a gentlemen's agreement by accepting a formal accord on eligibility for the Boat Race. The recruitment of outstanding oarsmen, which triggered the 1987 Oxford mutiny featured in the film True Blue, has become increasingly contentious since Cambridge introduced rowing bursaries in 1994.

Stop-and-search

Police are to be given comprehensive stop-and-search powers to combat the carrying of knives and possession of drugs on the streets, under plans announced by Michael Howard.

Currency defeat

The Government is today facing an embarrassing defeat over its attempt to sideline a crucial debate on steps towards a European single currency.

War crimes appeal

Simon Wiesenthal has appealed to German ministers not to close the Central Agency for investigating war crimes, which has helped to bring more than 6,000 people to trial.

Nuclear threat

Rusting submarines, unstable power stations, leaking waste tanks and poor storage of plutonium make the Kola peninsula in northwest Russia the greatest threat to the West.

Terrorist jailed

Germany closed a bloody post-war chapter by jailing a former Palestinian terrorist for the 1977 hijacking of a Lufthansa jet and the murder of its pilot.

Grinning gunman

The gunman accused of the world's worst civilian shooting grinned and laughed as he slaughtered 35 people in Tasmania, a court heard.



The first snowfall of winter in Cannock, Staffordshire, yesterday. The bad weather caused a crash which blocked the nearby M6

BUSINESS

VAT: A High Court judge ruled that Customs and Excise unlawfully deferred paying out on legitimate claims for back-dated VAT beyond a three-year limit. He said that outstanding amounts were wrongly withheld.

Lottery: The first mid-week draw will take place on February 5. Camelot said the move could boost sales by up to 20 per cent.

Vodafone: People's Phone, the mobile phone distributor that abandoned a £200 million stockmarket flotation earlier, is to be bought by Vodafone for £77 million.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 15.1 to 3977.2. Sterling rose from 92.0 to 92.3 after rising from \$1.6714 to \$1.6753 and from DM2.5094 to DM2.5173.

SPORT

Football: Terry Venables has a 19-month contract as coach of Australia, starting on January 1. He is also to become chairman of first division Portsmouth.

Drugs in sport: Four Olympic competitors could still face bans of up to four years if new drug tests are ordered by the IOC and they prove to be positive.

Tennis: Richard Krajicek and Boris Becker won their opening round-robin matches in the world championship of the Association of Tennis Professionals in Hanover.

Racing: In an effort to counter last year's disappointing entry for the Grand National, the minimum rating qualification has been lowered and the burden carried by the top weight increased.

ROTTEN APPLE

Tribe: Veteran South African musician Pops Mohamed is a man with a mighty task - to record his country's music before it is lost forever in the rush to assimilate American sounds.

Rising star: Violin-mad Welsh schoolgirl Rakhi Singh is just 14, but heading for the top as a finalist in the Audi Junior Musician competition on Saturday.

Bob's back: Jon Marans's play Old Wicked Songs has lured Bob Hoskins back to the West End in a surprising role - as a professor obsessed with Schumann.

Banker's draft: Thousands of imposing but redundant bank buildings in prime high street sites are finding new life as restaurants, pubs and wine bars.

ROTTEN APPLE

Great wrap-up: Long and lean or short and slim - now is the time to concentrate on the coat.

Brinda Maddox: One of the many paradoxes of British broadcasting is the general air of niceness prevailing at the top of the Independent Television Commission, while over at the non-commercial cultural bastion of the BBC, bad blood reigns.

Fair trials: Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, is considering introducing legislation to ban payment to witnesses by newspapers in criminal trials.

The British will soon have the occasion to pronounce on whether they want the Euro or the pound. The Spanish should have that option too. While it is legitimate to be in favour of, or against, a single European currency, it is not right to duck a plebiscite on the issue.

Central Bank: school tables; Civil Service jobs; Al Fayed.

SIMON JENKINS

League tables put auditors in charge of education. This quantification in turn distorts the character of the examination. Results must be standardised. Professional discretion must be minimised. The bureaucrat must control.

ALAN COREN

If Mr Coren had someone to get him out of bed at 8.30, the someone could not only make him a cooked breakfast, porridge, boiled eggs, soldiers, but also drive him to the park, wait, and after his walk tell him it was now time to be a good boy and go to the loft and get on with his work.

PETER RIDDELL

When Brian Maxwell and Peter Mandelson offer advice to the media, it is time to be suspicious. It is rather like chefs urging slimming.

SIMON BARNES

The globalisation of sport is a fact of life: there were 197 nations in the global Olympic Village in Atlanta. The other week India played Pakistan in Toronto.

Bryan Keith-Lucas

Professor of Government at Kent; Andrew Hutchings, Assistant Masters Association; Colin Cadell, engineer.

Central Bank: school tables; Civil Service jobs; Al Fayed

Page 21

IN THE TIMES FILMS Geoff Brown reviews Kansas City, starring Miranda Richardson, Jennifer Jason Leigh. BOOKS Sir Roy Strong on Frederick Ashton; Marianne Wiggins on Joseph Brodsky.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,330

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

- ACROSS 1 With game almost finished, sign on for county (8). 5 Object to work attitude (6). 10 Something physics teacher talks about when one adds off (6,2,7). 11 Two bearings needed to get to end-point of journey? (7). 12 Fit chaps into right clothes (7). 13 Working-class clergy excel (5-3). 15 Lofted shot more dangerous? Right, one can get out (5). 18 Measure five twenty-eighths? (5). 20 Most unpleasant wine kept in the home (8). 23 A recluse gets hold of married social-worker (7). 25 Money needed by the Queen to cover one fire (7). 26 Grounds for an optimistic outlook (3,8,4).

FLIGHT SAVERS LONDON TO HAMBURG from £109 return. LONDON TO FRANKFURT from £109 return. LONDON TO COPENHAGEN from £99 return.

WEATHER

Weather forecast for various regions including London, SE England, E Anglia, and around Britain.

Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Includes locations like Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Includes locations like Madrid, Rome, Paris, etc.

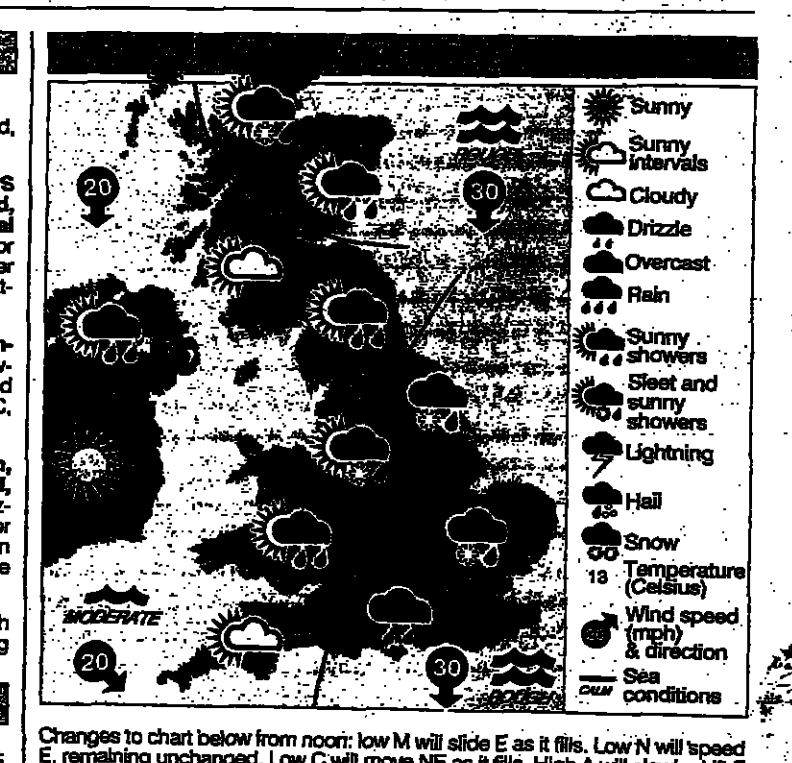


Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, and HT. Includes locations like London Bridge, Aberdeen, etc.

BankAmerica advertisement with contact information and services.

Large vertical advertisement for BankAmerica, including text like 'WIDE PARADISE' and 'BankAmerica'.

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



ARTS Not a lot to Crow about PAGES 39-41



HOMES Ugly duckling that grew a covering of country style PAGE 45



SPORT Why Australia is caught in the grip of Tigermania PAGES 47-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20 1996

Taxman acted illegally over VAT refunds

By Jason Nisse

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE was yesterday told by a High Court judge that it has been acting illegally in a landmark ruling that could lead to claims for overpaid value-added tax costing the Treasury as much as £5 billion.

Mr Justice Keene said the Customs had, since July 18, unlawfully deferred paying out on legitimate claims for backdated VAT beyond a three-year limit.



Hamilton: warning

He instructed Customs to make payments immediately, totalling £35 million, in eight test cases involving groups as diverse as GUS, the home shopping group, the Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians and the Mercers Company of the City of London.



Sir Gerald Whent, Vodafone's chief executive, said the acquisition was defensive

Vodafone pockets Peoples Phone

By Eric Rowley

VODAFONE, the largest mobile phone company, agreed yesterday to buy Peoples Phone for £77 million in a move to keep the service provider from unfriendly hands.

Sir Gerald Whent, Vodafone's chief executive, said the acquisition was defensive because more than three-quarters of Peoples Phone's 400,000 customers are Vodafone users.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FTSE 100, FTSE All share, Dow Jones, S&P Composite, US RATE, FEDERAL FUNDS, LONG BOND, YIELD, and various market indices.

London shares surge on bid talk

London Electricity shares surged 28 1/2 p to 665 p because Entergy, the New Orleans utility was tipped to launch a bid.

Hyde Park Hotel sold for record

By Alasdair Murray

GRANADA yesterday began its great hotel sell-off with the disposal of the prestigious Hyde Park Hotel in London for the equivalent of £465,000 a room - the most expensive price ever paid for a hotel business in London.

The hotel is being bought by Mandarin Oriental International, the Hong Kong-based hotel group controlled by Jardine Matheson, for a total of £86 million.

Good causes lose out on £110m as lottery sales slip

By Jon Ashworth

TUMBLING lottery sales cost good causes more than £110 million this year, according to the latest financial snapshot from Camelot, the lottery operator.

Online ticket sales showed a slight increase, rising to £1.67 billion, but overall sales slipped from £2.5 billion to just under £2.1 billion.

People a week were now playing the lottery on a regular basis. The lottery has proved a boon to independent shopkeepers, earning them about £5,000 a year in commission, along with an increase in trade.



Holley: 30 million players

BankAmerica offers staff share options

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BANKAMERICA Corporation is to offer share options to 85,000 full-time and part-time employees worldwide.

benefited from handsome share option schemes during the recent rise in stock markets, raising accusations that bosses have benefited at the expense of their workforces.

cisco by David Coulter, chairman and chief executive of the bank. The options must be exercised after three years but before five at a price of 95¢.

increase our shareholder value by motivating our workforce to think and act like owners. He said it would focus attention on the company's share price as the key measure of Bank of America's performance.

ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR LIFE ASSURANCE ?

Advertisement for life insurance with a table comparing various providers like Barclays Life, Nat West Life, Halifax Life, etc. Includes a starburst graphic: 'The first 2 months' premiums refunded!'.

FIRST TWO MONTHS PREMIUMS REFUNDED

For applications received before the end of 1996 we are refunding the first two months' premiums. So if you are interested in a life assurance, decreasing term (mortgage protection) or critical illness illustration and would like independent advice phone us at local rates on

Advertisement for Direct Life & Pension Services Ltd. with phone number 0345 419410 and company details.

Legislation outlined in Green Paper dismissed as unnecessary

Business cool on plans to curb strikes

BY PHILIP BASSETT INDUSTRIAL EDITOR
BUSINESS LEADERS gave a cool response yesterday to the Government's new proposals aimed at curbing strikes...

suggestions for immediate legislation. Some suggest they will worsen rather than improve UK employee relations.

companies "suggest there is doubt about whether they are workable". The key terms "excessive" and "disproportionate" would need to be properly defined, it said.

Britain's managers said the Government was "over-reacting" to strikes in the Post Office and London Underground.

would lead to uncertainty among employers. In the Commons, the Prime Minister said that, in the private sector, strikes were now at 4 per cent of their level in 1979...

pick a fight with the unions. What we are trying to do is prevent the unions picking a fight with the public...

Bae targets German weapons firm stake

BRITISH AEROSPACE is negotiating the purchase of a substantial shareholding in STN Atlas Elektronik, a German supplier of defence electronics...

Opposition water plan

LABOUR yesterday stepped up its attack on the water industry, publishing targets it aims to enforce if the party forms the next government.

Rothschild appointment

NM ROTHSCHILD & Sons, the investment bank, has been appointed by the Department for Education and Employment to advise on the possible sale of part of the £2 billion student loan portfolio.

Setback for Whitecroft

WHITECROFT, the building and lighting business, suffered a 21 per cent fall in pre-tax profits from £3.4 million to £2.7 million in the six months to September 30.

Bett Brothers slips

BETT BROTHERS, the housebuilding and property group based in Scotland, saw tight margins in new homes contribute to a decline in pre-tax profits to £5.02 million from £5.56 million in the year to August 31.

Sinclair Montrose deal

SINCLAIR Montrose Healthcare, the medical services group, has bought Personnel Operations, a bureau supplying operating theatre assistants, for £1.4 million.

Virgin Net launched

INTERNATIONAL CableTel, the American-controlled cable company, and Virgin Communications, part of Richard Branson's Virgin Group, yesterday launched Virgin Net, an Internet service provider they said was designed for easy use by consumers.

Purchase for Azlan

AZLAN, the distributor of network computing products and services, has agreed to buy Akam International, computer consultancy in The Netherlands, for up to £29.6 million.

Mansfield toasts 11% rise

MANSFIELD BREWERY achieved an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £10.5 million in the half year to September 28, helped by a 17.5 per cent profit increase in the managed house division.

BOC confident of revival in healthcare

By PAUL DURMAN

BOC GROUP, the industrial gases company, yesterday mounted a strong defence of its healthcare business, often criticised and seen as a disposal candidate by the City.

The upbeat message on healthcare, combined with full-year profits at the top end of forecasts, prompted a 44p rise in BOC's share price to 880p.

ferred severe price falls in the face of generic competition. Forane made £20 million last year, compared with £123 million four years ago.



Tony Isaac, BOC finance director, and Darryl Rosenkranz saw profits rise 11 per cent

Labour to instigate new type of pension

By OUR CITY STAFF

A LABOUR government would create a new type of pension scheme aimed at providing a retirement income higher than a typical personal pension, a conference will be told today.

John Denham, the Shadow Pensions Minister, said Labour's proposal "will bring security in retirement within the reach of many who are denied it today".

Call for safeguard over pre-paid burials

By A CORRESPONDENT

GRIEVING families could be left to meet burial costs of relatives who have pre-paid for their own funerals, the National Consumer Council says.

Cowboy operators are able to exploit legal loopholes, which mean they are exempt from normal rules governing insurance and financial services.

been 200,000 pre-paid funerals sold over the past decade, costing more than £1,000 each and accounting for 2 per cent of the burial market.

panies simply disappear overnight, leaving people with no burial cover and forcing reputable firms to step in.

"People who buy pre-paid funerals believe they can help lift the burden and worry of these arrangements from their families."

Visitors and profits soar at Euro Disney

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A RECORD 11.7 million people visited Euro Disneyland, in France, last year: an increase of one million, helping to lift profits at Euro Disney, operator of the theme park, 77 per cent to Fr202 million in the year to September 30.

Philippe Bourguignon, chairman and chief executive of Euro Disney, yesterday said: "We are proud of what has been accomplished in a difficult economic environment, particularly for the tourism industry."

strong increase in financial charges constitute several real challenges for the future, particularly in 1997.

Football jobs worry fewer fans than 'rip-off' charges

By JASON NISSE

SPIRALLING admission costs, frequent changes of kit and overpriced catering are more of a deterrent to football supporters than hooliganism, a survey by Mintel, the consumer research group, found.

ticket at some London clubs is more than £800. Some clubs are wondering whether they may have to cut admission prices when games are televised on a pay-per-view basis.

sive at grounds. During the Euro 96 championships in the summer Wembley was charging £1 for a Mars Bar that retails in shops for 45p.

Table with exchange rates for various currencies including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and USA.

TR EUROPEAN GROWTH TRUST PLC. Placing and Offer for Subscription of up to 100,000,000 C Shares of £1 each at 100p per C Share payable in full on application. HOARE GOVETT CORPORATE FINANCE LIMITED and sub-division of ordinary shares and bonus issue of warrants on a one for seven basis.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin including 'beat strike', 'La Rue', 'Mansfield', and 'Football'.

One rule for the State, another for taxpayers Where now for the National Lottery? Another US power buyer lurks

Fair treatment, and VAT's that

IN July 1974 an Epping housewife cut out a money-saving voucher on a washing powder packet and took it to her local branch of Fine Fare to claim a discount. From such small beginnings do mighty events grow. As she was deemed to have paid the full price, a new-fangled tax called VAT was levied on the whole transaction and this VAT was passed to Customs & Excise by the supermarket.

More than 20 years later the courts found that the money-off voucher should not have attracted VAT, in a case brought by the manufacturer of the washing powder claiming back two decades-worth of overpaid tax. Concerned that this and other claims were about the bankrupt Treasury, the then Paymaster General, David Heathcoat-Amory, stood up in Parliament on July 18 and laid a mixed bunch including Unilever, Great Universal Stores and the Royal Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists that they would only get three years' repayment of overpaid VAT, even though Customs could go after under-taxed VAT-payers for six years' payments.

The problem was that Mr Heathcoat-Amory said this time limit would be brought in retrospectively in the Budget. Since then the rule has been applied as if it is law, which it

certainly is not. Customs claims this makes sense, as all they would be doing is making repayments only to claim them back. The courts yesterday decided that Customs was acting illegally. Give these people their money back and then see whether the rule becomes law.

Barring a last-minute change of heart, the cut-off rule will be in the Budget. It will be debated in the Commons next month and at committee stage in January. Should it survive, the rule will go to the European Commissioners to see if it breaches their VAT rules. And if it passes that test, it will be challenged at the European Court.

Pass on, for a moment, whether the European courts have any right to strike out tax-raising legislation duly passed by national Parliament. The whole argument is pointless. No one in their right mind thinks some massive company like Unilever should get a multi-million-pound VAT refund just because it has kept records back to the year dot. Nor does anyone expect the manufacturer, duly reimbursed, to pass on the

benefit to the consumer. Time limits on VAT repayments make sense, and almost all other EC states have them.

But the Government has a duty to act fairly. It cannot apply one rule to the state and another to the taxpayer. And unless it changes that four to five-year cycle of company visits by VAT inspectors, it cannot bring in a unilateral three-year rule. The solution is clearly to bring in a six-year time limit for both repayments and claims. The new Paymaster General, David Willetts, could win a few friends by such a move. Heaven knows, he needs them.

Have a bet on overseas expansion

THE National Lottery — those of us who have loathed it since the outset two years ago must at last admit — has become a national institution. Like the Queen Mother and the Grand National, the lottery is probably now beyond rational criticism, therefore, whatever private misgivings some may still hold



In City terms, the lottery can now be regarded as a utility.

Utilities can be defined as dull businesses with static revenues where the main concern of management is what can go wrong in future. The lottery's revenues are static enough. Headline turnover in the first half of the financial year may be down, but this is a false comparison with the high but unsustainable initial sales of Instant scratchcards in the previous summer. The company's own projections say this dip will be made up by the boost from having a twice-weekly online draw from February. If so, revenues can be expected to run at somewhere approaching £5 billion a year. But it is not clear

how they can be raised further. As to what can go wrong, there are three main possibilities. The computers could foul up, so bringing the institution into public disrepute. Unlikely — they have not failed to any significant extent yet. The public could lose interest — again unlikely; revenues have remained remarkably unchanged week on week, at least from the online draw, and any dips tend to be self-correcting once a rollover week raises the jackpot. The rules could be changed to allow bets on the lottery numbers at the bookies, so-called side-betting, but the Government has so far shown no inclination to adjust the odds in favour of other sectors of the gaming industry.

Further expansion has to be overseas. Camelot runs the most efficient such operation in the world — just — in terms of the 43 per cent of total take going to Government and good causes. There is scope for the company to step in and run less efficient lotteries, especially those now state-administered. It is a depressing thought that the country that once led the world

in shipbuilding and engineering now has pre-eminence in the running of national sweepstakes, but there it is.

Waiting for Lang's sign

SO MUCH for the theory that sterling's four-year high against the dollar would discourage yet more Americans from buying into our electricity industry. The CalEnergy bid for Northern Electric will now cost the company 4 per cent more than when it was first launched because of the dollar's depreciation, which may explain why the expected higher offer has yet to materialise. The Americans are more likely waiting to see whether they will be thrown to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But yesterday yet another potential US buyer emerged, for London Electricity.

The indications are that Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, will now choose to rule simultaneously on both Northern and the second actual bid in the sector, for East Midlands.

Their respective share prices, at least, suggest both will be referred. It is doubtful whether the pace of events will allow him to take in a ruling on London as well, if needed. Something called Entergy of New Orleans is supposed to be in talks with the board of London. The Americans, who have denied an earlier reported interest in Yorkshire, another of the three independents as yet unbid for, have not denied the latest story. London has nothing to say either. The assumption must be that they are indeed talking. London shares rose by 28p to 665p yesterday, against a reported bid price of £7.

This all has an eerie ring of familiarity about it. CalEnergy was originally supposed to be talking around the £7 mark with Northern. Dominion of Virginia, bidding for East Midlands, broke cover after the Americans apparently tired of the lack of progress in private talks, then reaching an agreed deal. But this led to some burnt fingers, because Dominion had said it would not pay much more than 608p, which encouraged some investors to sell, and then came in at 670p. The City Takeover Panel has been heavily criticised as a result. The Panel must ensure there is no repetition of this, by asking the Americans to clarify their intentions forthwith.

Upbeat EMI strikes a chord in City

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

EMI GROUP sought to dispel some of the gloom in the record industry as the demerged music company unveiled a 9.4 per cent rise in half-year profits to £125 million before tax and exceptional items yesterday.

Sir Colin Southgate, chairman, said much of the negative comment about the industry, which followed a series of poor results from other international companies, had been overstated.

He added that worldwide growth in record sales, ignoring currency fluctuations, had been about 5.5 per cent this year and EMI expected growth of between 6 and 8 per cent in the medium term.

EMI's shares rose 23p to £12.94 as the City warmed to its upbeat message.

The music division increased operating profits by 6 per cent to £132 million on flat sales of £1.09 billion. Seven albums sold more than one million copies, with George Michael's *Older*, the top selling album, selling four million.

The US continued to prove the most difficult market, with profits at £7.8 million, compared with £8 million, but EMI said the retailing problems that had hit sales were being resolved. In contrast, the company enjoyed good

growth in the UK, Japan, South-East Asia and Latin America. The company is also establishing new operations in China and Indonesia.

EMI is pinning it hopes in the important pre-Christmas period on new releases from Spice Girls, the artist formerly known as Prince and the New Power Generation. The company conceded that its third-quarter release schedule is weaker than last year although it believes the fourth quarter, which will see releases from Blur, Supergrass, Simple Minds, and Robbie Williams, should compensate.

EMI's music publishing division increased profits by just over 10 per cent and now contributes about 25 per cent of music division profits. HMV, the music retail business, incurred an operating loss of £11 million on increased sales of £360 million, a rise of 17 per cent. Dillons, the bookstore, lifted sales by 7.3 per cent and the company said it should make a small profit over the full year. EMI added it was installing an improved accounting system for the bookstore chain.

The dividend rises by 13 per cent to 8p, payable on March 7, 1997.

Times, page 30

De La Rue slips at half time

By OLIVER AUGUST

DE LA RUE, the printer of banknotes, saw pre-tax profit slide further from £69 million to £60 million in the six months to September 30.

Purchasing prices for banknotes are under continuing pressure as De La Rue's foreign competitors step up their efforts to attack its position as market leader.

Jeremy Marshall, the chief executive, said: "As previously stated, trading conditions were extremely tough at the start of the year. The half-year's profits reflect this. As the year progresses, however, there are signs that banknote printing is stabilising."

He said results for the second half would depend on new orders over the next four months, while the cash systems division had seen the benefits of a reorganisation last year and from new products coming to the market.

Earnings per share were 19.7p (23.1p) and the interim dividend is 7.5p (7.25p).

Times, page 30

Shares fall at Country Casuals

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

COUNTRY CASUALS shares lost more than a third of their value yesterday after the women's clothing company gave warning of a "significant deterioration in group trading" and said it would not pay a final dividend.

It said pre-tax profits for the year to January 25 would be "materially below" analysts' forecasts, which were in the £2.1 million to £2.4 million range, but not less than £1 million. Its shares plunged 36p to 64p, a record low.

The worst performer within the group has been Lerosse Manufacturing, which is reporting monthly losses. Lerosse, which has factories in Birmingham and Glasgow, employs about 400 people and supplies many high street retailers.

The company said it was "reviewing all options in order to rectify matters". Last month it reported half-time pre-tax losses of £918,000 but opted to pay an interim dividend of 1.7p. It is due to make its next trading statement in January.

WORLD COVER ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE CALL US ON 0800 365 121

Advertisement for Hewlett-Packard featuring a puzzle of bicycle wheels. Text includes: "You're pretty smart. That's why your company put you in charge of buying computers. So here's a little puzzle for you. If PC manufacturers have all this cutting-edge technology, why does it take most of them two weeks to deliver? What technology are we talking here? Bicycles? Shire horses? Baffled? Don't worry. Here at Hewlett-Packard, where we deliver great-value, cutting-edge PCs in just two working days, we're fairly smart ourselves. And we can't figure it out either."



Product specifications for HP Vectra VL 5/120 and 5/166. Includes details on processor, RAM, HDD, and price points: £849 (excluding VAT) and \$997.58 (including VAT).



STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Damage to Tunnel link boosts P&O shares

SHARES of P&O, the ferry operator, were building up a full head of steam with a rise of 9p to 606 1/2p as the full extent of the damage to the Channel link began to emerge.

Eurotunnel finished the session 3 1/2p lower at 88p as inquiries into the fire got under way on both sides of the Channel. The damage caused was described as severe and will take an "indefinite period of time" to repair although single-line services are expected to be resumed quickly.

But last night City brokers were trying to assess the damage to much-needed revenue for Eurotunnel, which is still trying to reach agreement with a consortium of more than 200 banks over its near £9 billion of debt.

In the meantime, brokers expect P&O, the biggest of the cross-channel ferry operators, to take full advantage of the setback to the link.

Eurotunnel and the ferry operators have been locked in a fierce battle for control of the lucrative Dover-Calais route. Eurotunnel has been gleaming market share from them and eating into their margins.

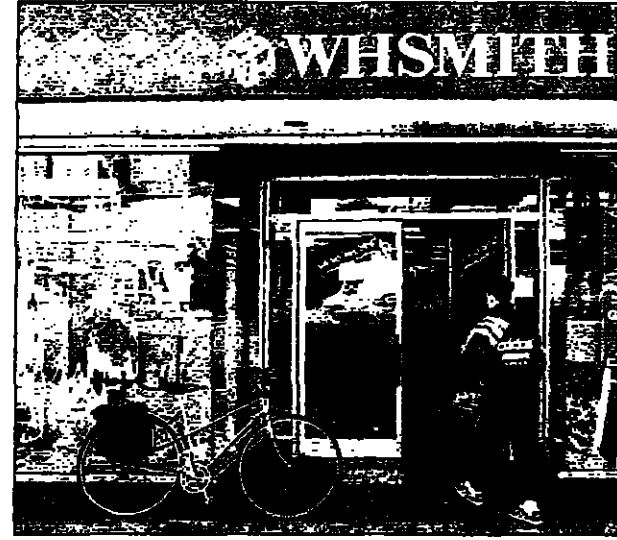
The rest of the equity market recovered some early losses on the back of another firm performance by the gilt-edged market. The absence of any positive performance by Wall Street overnight saw the FT-SE 100 index fall eight points in early trading before rallying to close just below its best of the day. It ended 16 points up at 3,978.1.

Again trading conditions were thin, with fewer than 700 million shares changing hands. Investors appear reluctant to open fresh positions before next week's Budget.

Speculative buying was directed at London Electricity, with the price climbing 2 1/2p to 665p on reports in the American press that Entergy, the US power generator, was ready to offer 700p a share. Brokers in London said any offer would have to be at a substantial premium to last night's closing price.

The old bid stories continued to swirl round Zeneca as the price rose 4 1/2p to £16.97 1/2 on turnover of almost two million shares. A bid from mainland Europe or the US seems to be the favourite theory.

Better than expected half-year figures lifted Vodafone 10 1/2p to 254p. It also cheered brokers by confirming it had bought Peoples Phone for £77



WH Smith was a dull market, the price falling 13p to 428p

million, less than originally expected. Orange rose 1p to 181p in sympathy.

WH Smith was a dull market, losing 13p to 428p after some cautious comments about future earnings growth.

Norcor advanced 4p to 93p after making a welcome return to the dividend list, while the absence of any further bad news with last year's profits

but has downgraded its estimate for 1997 from £9 million to £7 million.

A profits warning knocked Country Casuals, the clothing retailer, with the price plunging 36p to 64p after it reported a significant deterioration in trading since announcing interim figures last month.

Profits for the year to January 25 are now expected to be materially below market estimates of £2.4 million but not less than £1 million. The company blamed problems at Elvi, which had not been able to sustain the growth seen in the first half.

Enterprise Inns seemed unperturbed by the setback to profits in the first half, with the price up 12p to 250 1/2p on speculation that it might be poised to bid for some puts owned by Bass. It was suggested the Government might insist on Bass disposing of some puts before allowing the Carlsberg-Tetley deal to go through. Last night Enterprise denied plans to buy any puts from Bass, up 7p to 797p.

Druid Group made an encouraging debut, establishing a useful premium in first-time trading. Shares in the integrated information and technology systems specialist were placed at 275p, valuing the company at £63 million. They started life at 287 1/2p and touched a high for the day of 288 1/2p before closing at 285 1/2p, a premium of 10 1/2p.

News of a bid approach lifted RPT Management Services, the property specialist, 15p to 113 1/2p. At these levels the group is capitalised at about £7.5 million.

GILT-EDGED: The bond market showed signs of running out of steam after a firm start, with investors taking a cautious line before today's money supply figures. Few seem willing to commit themselves in spite of taking an increasingly optimistic view of the Chancellor's scope to be more generous in the Budget.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt firming £ 1/2 to £110 1/2 as a total of 63,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £ 1/2 to £102 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 9 per cent 2000 was up £ 1/2 to £103 1/2.

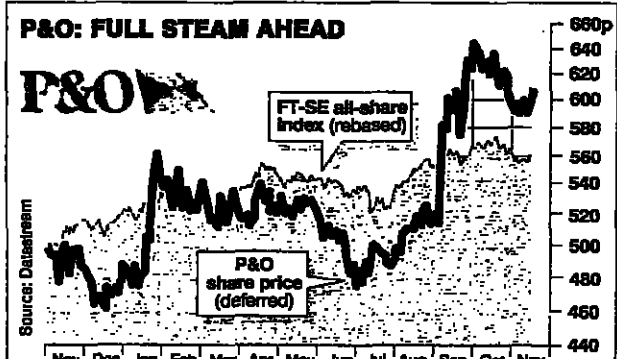
NEW YORK: US stocks were higher in midday trading, the session aided by strength in bonds. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 34.66 points to 6,381.57.

Keep an eye on Betacom, the telephone equipment supplier, where the price crept back up a further 2 1/2p to 22 1/2p on revised speculative buying. Alan Sugar is on the Betacom board and Amstrad continues to hold a 60 per cent interest. Once again there is talk of a minority bid at around the 30p a share level.

ticked BOC Group 4 1/2p higher at 800 1/2p.

Half-year figures from De La Rue were much in line with expectations. The share price touched 577 1/2p at one stage before losing ground to close just 3 1/2p dearer at 558 1/2p.

Maiden half-year figures from the newly demerged EMI were warmly received. Profits were almost 10 per cent ahead, with the dividend ris-



Share price (deferred) FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Source: DataStream

COMMODITIES

LUFFE		ICIS/LR (London 600pp)		GNI WHEAT GRAIN FUTURES	
Dec	87.91	Brent Physical	23.15	Nov	92.65
Mar	91.91	Brent 15 Day (Jan)	22.85	Mar	92.75
Jun	94.93	Zinc Spot (41 1/2)	22.35	Jun	92.80
Sep	96.90	WTexas Intermediate (Jan)	24.00	Sep	92.85
Dec	98.91	WTexas Intermediate (Jun)	23.70	Dec	92.90
ROBUSTA COFFEE (C)		PRODUCTS (p/m)		POTATO (t)	
Nov	1376.15	Spot CTF NW Europe (gross delivery)		Nov	48.50
Dec	1384.15	Premium Unid	222	Mar	48.55
Jan	1391.15	Casol ECU	225 1/2	Jun	48.60
Mar	1398.15	35 Fuel Oil	112 1/2	Sep	48.65
Jun	1405.15	Naphtha	224 1/2	Dec	48.70
Nov	1412.15			RUBBER (No 1 RSS C1/4)	
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)		IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)		Nov	
Spot 3100	304.0-304.5	GAS OIL		Dec	
Mar	304.0-304.5	21.50-21.50	Mar	80.75-81.00	
Jun	304.0-304.5	21.50-21.50	Jun	80.75-81.00	
Nov	304.0-304.5	21.50-21.50	Nov	80.75-81.00	
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION		BRENT (GNI Ltd)		Dec	
Average livestock prices at representative markets on Wednesday		Jan		80.75-81.00	
(p/kg)		Feb		80.75-81.00	
GP	89.00	Mar		80.75-81.00	
Eng/Wales	89.30	Apr		80.75-81.00	
Scotland	90.90	May		80.75-81.00	
NI	91.00	Jun		80.75-81.00	
Cattle		Jul		80.75-81.00	
GP	110.00	Aug		80.75-81.00	
Eng/Wales	110.00	Sep		80.75-81.00	
Scotland	112.00	Oct		80.75-81.00	
NI	113.00	Nov		80.75-81.00	
Pigs		Dec		80.75-81.00	
GP	40.00	Jan		80.75-81.00	
Eng/Wales	40.00	Feb		80.75-81.00	
Scotland	40.00	Mar		80.75-81.00	
NI	40.00	Apr		80.75-81.00	
Sheep		May		80.75-81.00	
GP	100.00	Jun		80.75-81.00	
Eng/Wales	100.00	Jul		80.75-81.00	
Scotland	100.00	Aug		80.75-81.00	
NI	100.00	Sep		80.75-81.00	
Hens		Oct		80.75-81.00	
GP	100.00	Nov		80.75-81.00	
Eng/Wales	100.00	Dec		80.75-81.00	
Scotland	100.00	Jan		80.75-81.00	
NI	100.00	Feb		80.75-81.00	

LIFE OPTIONS

Call	Put	Call	Put
AA	60	BB	60
BB	60	CC	60
CC	60	DD	60
DD	60	EE	60
EE	60	FF	60
FF	60	GG	60
GG	60	HH	60
HH	60	II	60
II	60	JJ	60
JJ	60	KK	60
KK	60	LL	60
LL	60	MM	60
MM	60	NN	60
NN	60	OO	60
OO	60	PP	60
PP	60	QQ	60
QQ	60	RR	60
RR	60	SS	60
SS	60	TT	60
TT	60	UU	60
UU	60	VV	60
VV	60	WW	60
WW	60	XX	60
XX	60	YY	60
YY	60	ZZ	60

LONDON FINANCIAL

Period	Open	High	Low	Set	Vol
FT-SE 100	3980.0	4000.0	3960.0	3970.0	9685
FT-SE 250	3980.0	4000.0	3960.0	4010.0	120
Three Month Sterling	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	723
Three Mth Euro Yen	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three Mth Euro DM	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Long Gilt	101.10	101.20	101.00	101.10	8366
Japanese Govt Bond	125.4	125.67	125.25	125.42	1430
German Govt Bd Bond	101.07	101.28	101.00	101.19	13603
Three month ECU	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month CHF	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month NZD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month HKD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month SGD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month TWD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month KRW	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BHK	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month THK	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month MYK	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month INK	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month PAK	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BGD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month VND	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month PHP	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month IDK	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month MEX	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BRL	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month ZAR	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month RUS	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month UYU	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month ARS	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month CLP	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month COP	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month PEN	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month COL	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month ECU	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month GYD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month JMD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BBD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BZD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BMD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BND	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BDT	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BOP	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BOB	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BOL	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BOM	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BOS	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BPT	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BPS	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQA	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQC	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQD	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQE	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQF	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQG	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQH	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQI	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQJ	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQK	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQL	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQM	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQN	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQO	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQP	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQQ	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQR	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQS	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQT	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQU	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQV	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQW	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQX	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQY	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882
Three month BQZ	92.98	92.99	92.96	92.97	882

MONEY RATES (%)

Period	Open	High	Low	Set	Vol
Discount Rate	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
3 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
6 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
12 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
3 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
6 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
12 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
3 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
6 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
12 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
3 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
6 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
12 month	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
3 month	5.75	5.75			



Standard Life springs a leak

IT'S all hands on deck at Standard Life, after the assurance company's luxury cruise competition sprung a leak.

Toytown Ferrari

AN advertising agent is raffling his red Ferrari at £10 a ticket to raise money for Children In Need.



Too many forgeries about if you ask me

Ship ahoy

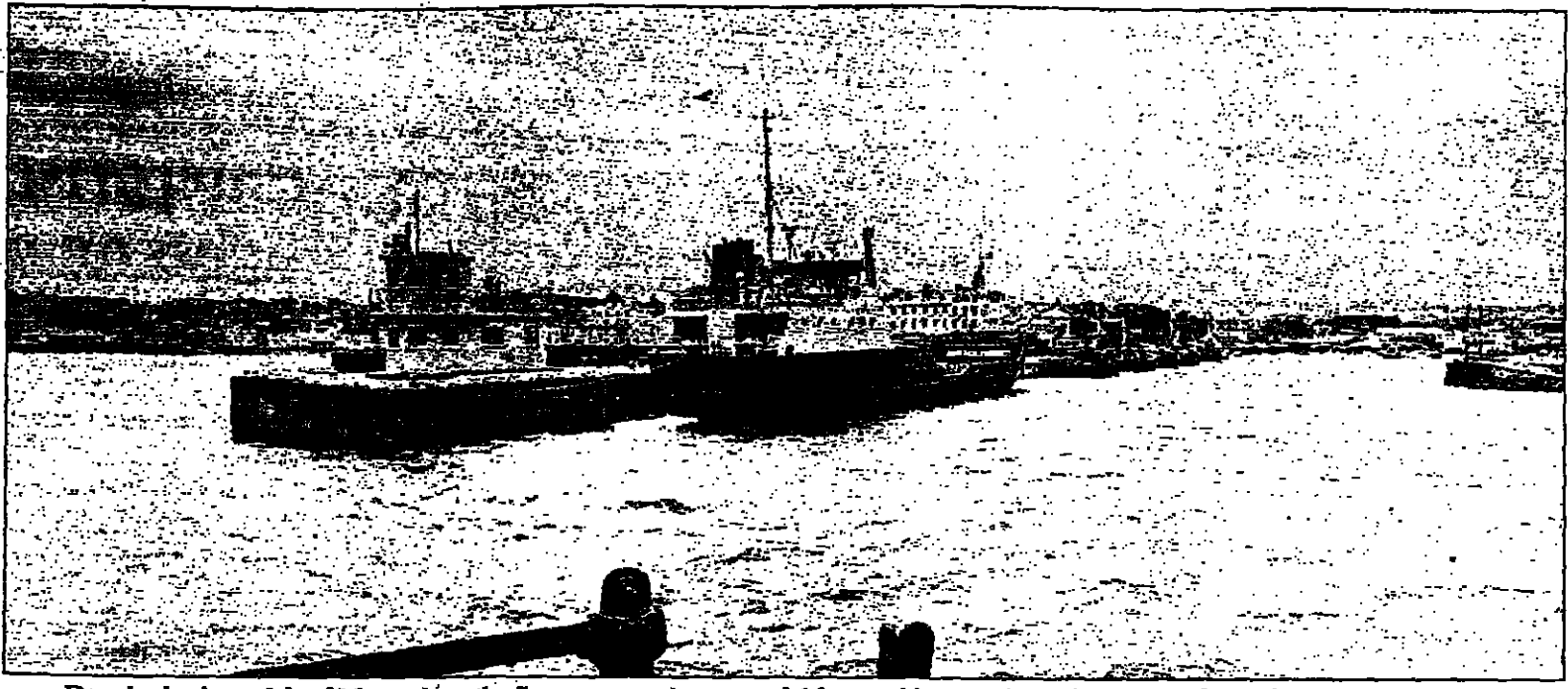
EVER wanted to watch your colleagues make their way to work on a boat emblazoned with your name.

THE SUDDEN arrival of winter caused chaos in the City yesterday. It was gridlock at City Brasserie, where infuriated diners were forced to queue for the coat check.

Smoke screen

MIKE GREENLEES, chief executive of GGT, the advertising agency, is trying to give up smoking in the midst of the company's attempts to complete its £110 million purchase of BDDP.

MORAG PRESTON



Douglas harbour, Isle of Man, where the finance sector is a powerful force, with more than 5,200 companies registered in the territory

Places of shelter for the good, the bad and simply unsavoury

Headlines about offshore tax havens rarely make happy reading. The furor over Mil-Tec Corporation, the Isle of Man-registered company at the centre of allegations of supplying some £3.3 million of arms to the former Rwandan Army, is just the latest — and particularly unsavoury — example.

Offshore centres tend to be seen either as a shelter from the taxman for the very wealthy, or a facilitator to those who want to shield their activities from local and international authorities through special trusts or off-the-shelf companies that can be bought for as little as £600 a year.

But then it is just as easy, and often cheaper by hundreds of pounds, to buy an off-the-shelf company on the UK mainland. What is more, millions of people domiciled on the UK mainland hold offshore bank and building society accounts, and offshore funds, for sound fiscal reasons.

The Isle of Man, now in the spotlight because of Mil-Tec, is a major base for all types of international corporate and investment business. The finance sector is a powerful force on the island, providing nearly one in five jobs, and generating about 36 per cent of the national income.

A non-resident company such as Mil-Tec can be set up for as little as £485, according to Jordans, a UK company specialising in company formations. Administration is likely to cost £400 a year, and the provision of nominee shareholders will cost a further £150 per annum.

Mil-Tec has put the spotlight on tax havens. Robert Miller and Jon Ashworth report

Mil-Tec, has provided a range of custodial and other services since setting up in the Isle of Man in 1981. John Clarke and Bernard Galica, BDO's representatives on the island, were appointed directors of Mil-Tec when the company was incorporated in February 1993, but resigned after just four months.

Further afield there are also numerous small island states from the Caribbean to the Pacific. In between them are other countries whose strict laws on banking secrecy are legendary, and into this category fall Liechtenstein and Switzerland. But both these countries would argue that when it comes to co-operating with overseas regulators and police forces they provide every assistance, although depending on the nature of the inquiry or investigation this can still take time.

As one senior City lawyer said yesterday: "There are sliding scales in terms of help from the offshore and banking centres. You have to remember that their economies are generally built on the fact that they are tax havens so inquiries about tax frauds are not likely to elicit as much help as say drug-related profits, money-laundering money or banking frauds."

The Cayman Islands have long been associated with "opaque" offshore trusts and a haven in which international criminals have hidden much of their wealth from the prying eyes of investigators. The British Virgin Islands is another. Yet both these island states would claim that they have been making strenuous efforts over the past couple of years to clean up their image.

Earlier this year senior officials from the Serious Fraud Office went public in an interview with The Times to express their concerns that efforts to prosecute criminals, whether drug-runners, financial fraudsters or arms dealers, and to cut off the proceeds from their criminal activities were being hampered by a lack of co-operation with many of the smaller offshore islands around the world.

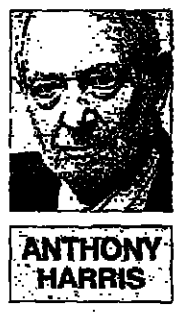
The example most quoted was that of the Seychelles and its Economic Development Act (EDA), which was dubbed "a money-launderer's charter". Critics of the EDA claimed that, for \$10 million, criminals, including UK citizens, could obtain a guarantee that their assets will be protected if any foreign authority tried to seize or even trace them.

The civil and criminal authorities in the UK say that they alone cannot win the battle against money-laundering and the use of offshore havens to mask illegal or even "unsavoury" activities. To this end there is now a duty of care on banks, building societies, City investment houses, lawyers, accountants and auditors to check out their clients before taking them on and being satisfied as to the source of the money.

Ms Sellars added that the actual mechanism of setting up an offshore company from the UK was not that difficult since the abolition of exchange controls, although there was a contingent known as Treasury Consent that was still on the statute books. This, however, is more of an inland Revenue monitoring device, she said.



Holiday and offshore haven



Explaining the high demand for nonsense

A favourite slogan of my first stockbroker was "The market is always right." To an arrogant young economist, this seemed obvious nonsense. Financial markets are always, I argued — yes, always — en route from one untenable position to another, and can only even look right by making the journey a slow one.

Why this disparity? Because the time scales are hopelessly out of synch. The forces that determine underlying long-term trends — "secular" bull and bear markets — are glacially slow. The bull market caused by a baby boom runs for a working lifetime; then it reverses remorselessly. A technological lead used to last a century (though not any more) and a coalfield or an oilfield two or three. Even the shock of a big financial crash can reverberate for a quarter century, as after 1929.

None of this matters in the least to market professionals: they make their money not by guessing what will happen in the real world, but by guessing in advance what less professional investors will be worrying about next. Tracking the real world through market prices is about as useful as observing a glacier with a high-speed camera.

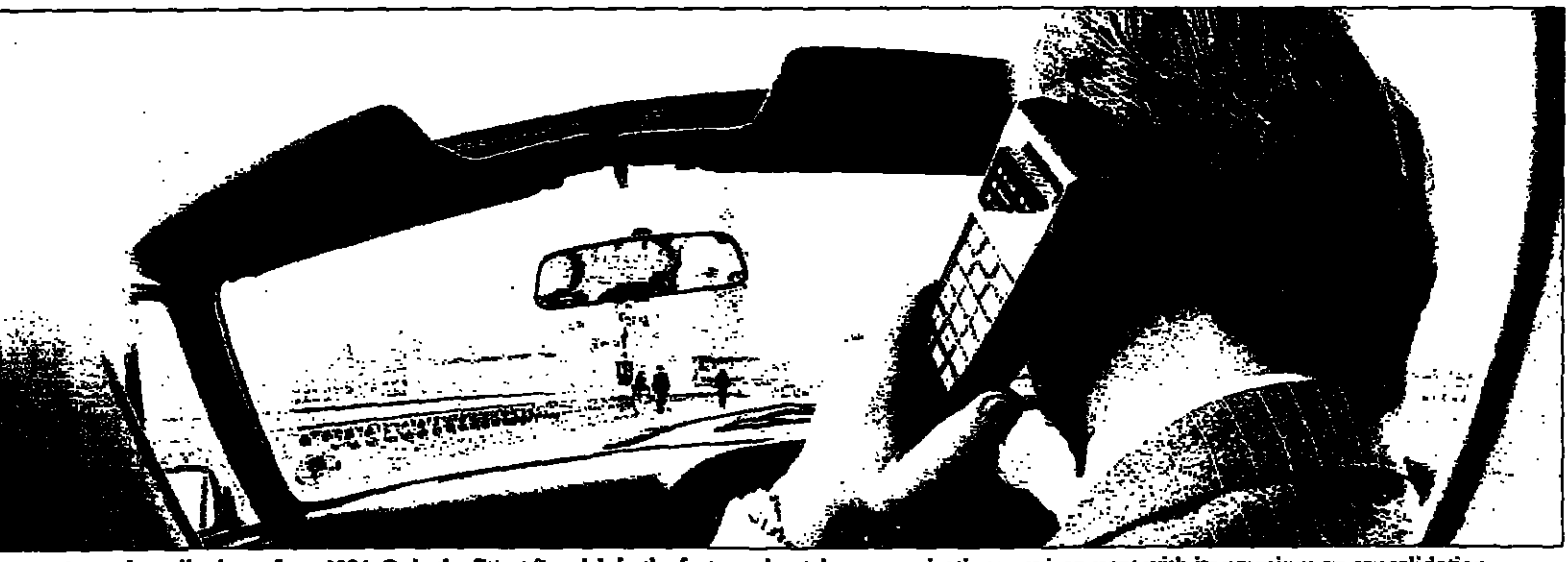
reporter; but that brings us to the real puzzle. Why do these people still treat so-called market forecasts (whether written down or derived from yield curves) as if they had anything to tell us, except about the markets? We have been warned endlessly, for example, that "the market expects" British inflation or interest rates to rise. Since both fell consistently for years, this would argue amazing obstinacy; but in fact the yields are telling us no such thing. They told us simply that the professional speculators who were borrowing such astronomical sums in Japanese yen preferred the mark or the Swiss franc for the long side of their "play".

Now we see something even odder: attempts to read the political future from the price charts. The detailed negotiations over EMU have become a tense interlocking power struggle, as Anatole Kaletsky pointed out yesterday, and the loser may yet go off in a huff. Talk to a German banker, and he will tell you that the odds on EMU actually starting in 1999 are no better than even. But talk to a London trader who reveres the market, and you will hear that EMU — and even Italian first-stage membership is inevitable — "a done deal."

Nonsense. What the yield curves tell us is that the professionals have been making what they call "a convergence play" — an educated guess that markets would respond only sluggishly to the possible approach of EMU, so that they can be there first. Their implied slogan: "Angels rush in where fools fear to tread"; and quite right, too. But they have made their money by now, and are moving on to other "plays". George Soros, for example, is now reported to be going massively short of the Swiss franc. This will interest you if you believe that anyone actually knows what Soros is doing; or if you suspect that Soros (or some other hedge speculator) has completed such a move, and is now trying to encourage others to buy his position. All absorbingly interesting to poker players; but not, surely, to economists.

US West shows signs of retreat from Britain

The latest round of telecoms mergers has put increased pressure on one cable operator, says Eric Reguly



An early radiophone from 1984. Only the fittest flourish in the fast-moving telecommunications environment with its premium on consolidation

US West, one of America's largest cable and media groups, preparing to scale back its \$1 billion investment in Britain? There are indications that it is considering a sweeping reorganisation of its holdings, one that could reduce its local exposure.

If so, it would not be alone. Its rival American companies such as Nynex, Southwestern Bell and Cox Communications are all on the retreat from Britain.

US West insists that it is committed to Britain but nonetheless is pulling back in some areas. The process started last week when US West International, its overseas investment arm based in London, confirmed that it had placed Thomson Directories on the auction block.

The news came as a surprise. US West bought Thomson only two years ago, reportedly paying about £90 million, and gave every indication that it was gearing up for a fight with British Telecom's Yellow Pages business.

Thomson, US West explained, no longer fits its core international strategy. Gary Ames, chief executive of US West International, said: "We're really trying to focus on wireless communications and the cable-telephony business." That may be so, but questions

hang over those investments in Britain. US West owns 27 per cent of TeleWest Communications, Britain's largest cable company, and half of Mercury One-2-One, the smallest of the four mobile phone networks. The other portfolio holding is 9 per cent of Flextech, the cable and satellite TV programmer

al, and TeleWest in particular, went from bad to worse. The shares are now trading at 125p, making US West's investment worth only about £320 million.

The cable company, saddled with stubbornly high disconnection rates and low penetration rates, is looking particularly vulnerable at the moment. The reason is that the latest round of mergers have left it out in the cold. TeleWest can take credit for starting the consolidation craze in 1995 with the purchase of SBC CableComms, the fifth-largest player.

But the mother of all deals, the proposed merger of Mercury Communications, owned 80 per cent by Cable and Wireless, and three leading cable companies — Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron — has upstaged TeleWest. Analysts think that the merged cable and phone company group, to be called Cable and Wireless Communications, has the potential to be a telecoms and media powerhouse.

The consensus among analysts and rival cable companies is that US West would consider selling its TeleWest stake unless TeleWest can strike a deal that gives it greater industry clout. But with only 27 per cent of the equity, US West does not have the luxury of determining TeleWest's future. It would have to convince TeleComms International, which also owns 27 per cent, and Southwestern Bell and Cox Communications, each with 10 per cent, to support its

proposals. The trouble is the latter two are anxious to get out. One analyst said: "It wouldn't surprise me in the least if US West sold its stake in TeleWest." But Mr Ames maintains the speculation is wrong, but he admits that the cable company is in flux. "I do believe there will be more consolidation in the industry, and TeleWest is open to fur-

ther expansion," he said. "We've had conversations with a lot of people about that." One-2-One's future is also uncertain. The mobile-phone company made the mistake of rolling out its network exceedingly slowly and is now struggling to catch its rival Orange, which made national coverage a priority from the onset. Nonetheless, One-2-One should be profitable before the end of the decade. The question is whether US West will stick around that long.

The idea of merging One-2-One with the new Cable and Wireless Communications group, a deal which would create the first cable, media and mobile-communications company, has been floated. If it happens, US West's ownership may get diluted.

US West's investments in Britain have been costly and, for the most part, disappointing. It said that it remains a believer in the British market, but forces may work against it in the end.

With 27 per cent of the equity, US West does not have the luxury of deciding TeleWest's future?

that recently struck a deal with the BBC to launch a series of BBC-themed subscription channels. TeleWest represents the biggest investment of the lot — and the biggest disappointment. TeleWest floated in late 1994 at 182p a share and immediately sank as the outlook for the industry in gener-

Advertisement for Planet Online Ltd. featuring the website www.planet.net and the slogan "is the fastest on the net?". It includes contact information for Planet Online Ltd. and a freecall number 0500 550 650.

Jump in cost for business gas users

Industrial gas users have encountered a dramatic jump in prices in a move that swiftly reverses recent falls in market rates for the fuel.

The average cost of gas for business users rose more than 5 per cent, according to the 1996 survey by National Utility Services (NUS).

Prices have been squeezed upwards by increasing spot market prices, a tightening of margins by independent suppliers and the consumption of surplus North Sea gas.

NUS believes there is also some upward pressure on prices from uncertainty over a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the pricing controls on TransCo.

The price increase is in contrast with the domestic market, where customers are beginning to see bill reductions as competition develops in gas supply.

Andrew Johns, NUS director, said: "The honeymoon period that British industry has enjoyed with the injection of competition into the market is over."

The price hardening is expected to continue as winter sets in. Prices for gas on the spot market have risen from below 10p a therm to 15p a therm in recent weeks.

Sales improve at Merchant

The Merchant Retail Group cut its interim loss from £3.3 million to £206,000 after a pick-up in sales at the Perfume Shop and Joplings department stores.

At the Perfume Shop, like-for-like sales were up 11 per cent, while at Joplings they were up 6.4 per cent.

The company is planning to expand its Perfume Shop chain from its current total of 28 stores by opening four more in the second half and 15 next year.

£13m raised

Oliver Ashworth, the pipeline distributor, will be valued at £26.3 million when it joins the main stock market on Monday.

The company has raised £13 million from the float, which it intends to use to reduce debt and build up funds for possible acquisitions.

Porvair price slides on profits warning

SHARES of Porvair, the manufacturer of industrial materials, whose shares traded at 45p earlier this year, fell a further 6p to 39p yesterday after the company said pre-tax profits would not exceed £4.2 million in the current financial year, ending November 30.

The company said an anticipated strong recovery in trading had failed to materialise in the final quarter. Sales and profits were significantly lower than expected in four of Porvair's six companies.

The profit shortfall was compounded by the decision to accelerate investment in the second half.



Ross Buckland, Unigate chief executive, has £58 million cash and no borrowings despite spending £100 million on acquisitions in the first half

Allied Colloids lines up record £234m acquisition

ALLIED COLLOIDS, the chemicals group, is to buy one of its main US suppliers for £234 million, its largest ever acquisition.

The takeover of CPS Chemicals, an intermediates and finished polymers producer, will be partly financed through a £173 million rights issue, with a further £61 million funded through borrowings.

Mr Farrar said: "We have been badly hit by price increases in the past, but the combined group will have a huge level of purchasing power, putting us in a much stronger position."

Allied will raise the £173 million through offering up to 153 million shares at 118p each on a two-for-seven basis.

The issue, Allied's first cash call in 20 years, is being fully underwritten by Kleitwort Benson.

Mr Farrar said the company should easily absorb the remaining £61 million of debt, although borrowing the sum would double its gearing.

Allied reported better than expected interim results for the six months to September 30. It said that the cost of raw materials recovered in the second half helped to lift pre-tax profits for the first time in two years, rising 3.7 per cent to £21.1 million.

Sales grew in all divisions except textiles, which declined 13 per cent after being dragged down by sluggish conditions in the sector.

In 1995, CPS generated profit of £21.3 million, before interest and tax, on sales of £94 million - £13.2 million of which was to Allied.

Unigate to consider European purchases

UNIGATE is seeking acquisitions in the food and distribution businesses of continental Europe, the company indicated yesterday as it reported a slight rise in interim profits in spite of lower earnings from milk.

In the six months to September 30, the company made a pre-tax profit of £60.6 million, compared with £60.4 million a year ago.

Operating profit in the distribution and fresh foods divisions rose, but in dairy it fell £2.9 million to £17.6 million.

In the first half the group spent £100 million on acquiring Kraft's Vitale and Golden Churn business and the Hargrave pork products business.

Unigate now has £58 million cash and no borrowings and is looking at further food purchases and at expanding Wincauton, its distribution business, into continental Europe through acquisitions.

As a result of the Kraft acquisition, St Ivel's share of the UK margarines and spreads market has grown to just over 25 per cent.

Elsewhere in the fresh foods division, yogurt sales fell although desserts, comprising Cadbury, St Ivel and own label, continued to show good growth.

Fruit juice volumes improved slightly, but profits suffered from the impact of raw material cost increases.

Unigate signalled a year ago that butter and milk powder prices were unsustainable, and the BSE crisis has since added to the woes of milk producers.

Lower prices for butter and milk powders cost the company an estimated £4 million in the first half. Overall liquid milk volumes declined 7 per cent, with doorstep sales down 11 per cent in the six months and sales to supermarkets declining 2.4 per cent.

Unigate has completed its exit from US restaurants, selling Black-eyed Pea in July and Taco-Bucardo and Casa Bonita in the past few weeks.

Earnings per share were marginally higher at 19p (18.8p) and the interim dividend has been increased 5.3 per cent to 7p.

Great Portland boosts rent roll

ACQUISITIONS and lettings have added an extra £4 million to the future rent roll at Great Portland Estates, the property group with large holdings north of Oxford Street in London.

Great Portland's net rental income for the half-year to September grew 2 per cent to £47.6 million but pre-tax profits fell from £23.8 million to £21.9 million because of higher finance costs and smaller profits from property disposals.

Richard Peskin, chairman, said that earnings in the second half would be similar to the first half. However, he reported an improving trend in the London property market.

In the past few months there has undoubtedly been a firm underlying tone to the investment and letting markets, particularly in the West End.

The company's office redevelopment at 160 Great Portland Street was let in July, under two 12-year leases providing a total income of £2 million per annum.

In addition, two properties were acquired in June for £23 million which will bring in a further £2 million per annum in rent by 1998.

The company also secured control over a 38-acre site next to the M20 motorway near Ashford, Kent, and the company is seeking planning permission to build a leisure park.

Great Portland is paying a maintained interim dividend of 2.9p after revenue earnings per share of 5p (4.9p).

Bupa eyes Irish Republic

BUPA, the UK private healthcare company, heralded a new era of competition in the Republic of Ireland with the launch in Dublin of several strong packages designed to challenge the state-owned Voluntary Health Insurance (VHI) company.

Martin O'Rourke, Bupa Ireland's managing director, claimed the new products - which include a package with full cover for hospital treatment at a cost of £1,172 a year - would encourage more people to join private healthcare schemes.

One third of the Republic's population, almost 1.3 million people, have private health cover with the self-financing, non-profit VHI. Last year income from premiums exceeded £232 million.

Set up by the Irish Government in 1957, VHI has enjoyed a monopoly on private healthcare. In recent years it has been criticised for increasing its premiums ahead of the rate of inflation, VHI blamed escalating health costs.

The arrival of a competitor on the Irish market and the defection to Bupa of several of its leading staff, including Mr O'Rourke, has prompted VHI to review its operations.

VHI's chief executive resigned in September after a public boardroom squabble about his performance. A replacement has yet to be appointed. However, VHI has insisted that the reputation it has built up over the past 30 years will ensure that it will stave off the Bupa challenge.

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Enterprise Inns sets sights on more pubs

ENTERPRISE INNS, the independent pub group, said yesterday that it would be keen to buy pubs from Bass should the brewer be forced to sell part of its estate as a condition of buying Carlsberg-Tetley.

Enterprise added that it is considering other buying opportunities - ranging from individual pubs to corporate acquisitions - and is prepared to fund expansion with another rights issue.

The company announced a 13 per cent rise, to 87.7 million, in full-year profits before tax and exceptional. Overall turnover rose 25 per cent, to £38 million.

Enterprise said it had substantially completed the integration of the 300 pubs acquired with the £61 million purchase of the John Labatt estate in June, and, as a result of the expansion, has been able to renegotiate its main beer supply deals on better terms.

Last year it invested £3 million in improving its estate and expects to spend a further £4 million this year. A maiden final dividend of 4.5p, payable January 24, makes a total of 6.75p.

Lloyds Chemists advice

LOYDS CHEMISTS has advised shareholders to take no action over two rival takeover offers. Gehe, the German group, has offered £650 million cash, while UniChem is proposing a mix of cash and shares worth about £641.2 million.

Lloyds said: "Neither bidder has declared its offers final and the board of Lloyds Chemists continues to advise shareholders to take no action in relation to their shareholdings in Lloyds Chemists for the time being."

Lloyds said both offers provided shareholders with more value than could be achieved by the company remaining independent in the short term.

Indian Tobacco arrests

TWO more executives connected with Indian Tobacco Company, whose largest shareholder is Britain's BAT Industries, have been arrested on foreign exchange charges.

R.P. Agrawal, the executive director, and P.K. Talwar, director for finance of ITC Bhadrachalam Paperboards, were due to appear before a Calcutta magistrate for a bail hearing.

Federal police raided the company's offices on October 30 and arrested four current or past executives. The company is accused of creating false invoices for exports and imports of tobacco and machinery to hide \$4 million abroad.

Warning from Widney

SHARES of Widney fell 15p to 49p after the specialist engineering company gave warning that profits for the year to September 28 would fall below expectations.

Results will be hit by action to address poor profitability at the brewery division of the company's Chadburn subsidiary, incurring restructuring costs of £750,000, and reduced production schedules at Widney Enclosures.

The company, which earned profits of £1.65 million last year, expects to maintain the final dividend at 2.5p a share for an unchanged total of 3.5p.

Rights issue by Vision

VISION GROUP, the specialist camera supplier, is raising £11.5 million via a rights issue to enhance the manufacturing capability of its subcontractors and to meet additional working capital requirements.

Investors are being offered three new shares for every 19 held at 235p each. Existing shares rose 55p yesterday to 321p.

The company reported increased losses of £2.3 million before tax for the year to July 31, against losses of £1.5 million previously, but said that it made a profit £68,114 in the three months to the end of October.

Cosalt shares rise

SHARES of Cosalt rose 15p to 222p yesterday after the supplier of marine and industrial safety equipment announced a 12 per cent rise in the total dividend to 9.8p a share.

The payment of a 6.2p final, pre-tax profit in the year to September 1 rose to £3.75 million, from £2.8 million, on turnover that improved to £84.5 million from £73.2 million.

Cosalt said that Crewsaver, a manufacturer of lifejackets and buoyancy aids acquired for up to £990,000 in February, had enhanced earnings.

Maiden from Rebus

REBUS, the computer services company demerged from CE Heath in April, is paying a maiden interim dividend of 0.6p a share.

The company reported pre-tax profits of £2.3 million, down from an adjusted £2.5 million previously, and reflecting new corporate overheads arising from its status as a separate public company.

Rebus said that its core business produced a 39 per cent increase in profits. The company's turnover rose 7 per cent to £30.3 million.

Ferraris enjoys boom

FERRARIS GROUP, the products and services group for the medical and precision components sector, said that order books were at record levels and markets remained strong.

In the year to August 31, the company lifted pre-tax profits to £1.43 million from £648,000. Earnings were 9.7p a share, compared with 6.4p previously.

A final dividend of 1.75p a share lifts the total to 2.8p, from 2.35p. The company's medical products and instruments divisions report particularly buoyant demand in America and the European Union.

Adam & Harvey steady

ADAM & HARVEY, the distribution and steel stockholding company with interests in Africa, the UK, China and eastern Germany, held pre-tax profits unchanged at £2.5 million in the half year to September 30.

In spite of a fall in turnover to £24.2 million from £27.3 million, earnings rose to 34.6p a share from 30.8p. The interim dividend is increased to 12.5p a share from 11p.

The company said that its cash position remained strong but warned investors the recent appreciation of sterling would affect overseas earnings.

European Colour up

EUROPEAN COLOUR, the pigments and coatings business, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.48 million from £1.36 million in the half year to September 30.

Earnings rose to 2.41p a share from 2.35p. The interim dividend is increased to 0.825p a share from 0.75p.

Turnover was unchanged at £10.25 million, in spite of a £778,000 contribution from acquisitions. The company said that it would seek to offset the adverse impact of a stronger pound through targeted sourcing of raw materials and careful treasury planning.

Clearer picture at Norcros

NORCROS, the much reorganised company that is now concentrating on tiles and showers, has stopped taking a profits credit for one of its largest hidden assets - the £80 million surplus in its pension fund (Paul Durman writes).

The company is seeking to give a clearer picture of its underlying performance after years of results muddied by restructuring. Joe Matthews, chief executive, said the pension credit would have added £2.5 million to the half-year operating profits of £6.9 million announced yesterday.

Mr Matthews was reluctant to discuss the "highly sensitive" possibility that the pension fund could repay part of the surplus to the company.

However, he said the fund's trustees would be obliged to consider that option if the surplus continued to grow.

Norcros reported interim profits of £51.2 million for the six months to September 30. The big increase on the £18.7 million it made in the comparable period last year was down to a £45.8 million profit on the sale of PP Payne and Nor Systems, the packaging and labelling businesses.

An interim payment of 1p a share is due on January 3.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal and public notices section containing various notices such as 'ANNAPURVA LTD', 'BAXTER PELL', 'MARTIN O'ROURKE', 'LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES', 'PUBLIC NOTICES', and 'CHARTERHOUSE DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL'.

Access Plus valued at £12.6m on AIM

ACCESS PLUS, a print-related marketing services company, will be valued at £12.6 million when its shares begin trading on the Alternative Investment Market on Monday.

Shares representing 35 per cent of the issued share capital are being placed with institutional investors at 90p each on behalf of Charterhouse Development Capital, which invested in the company in 1991.

European Colour up

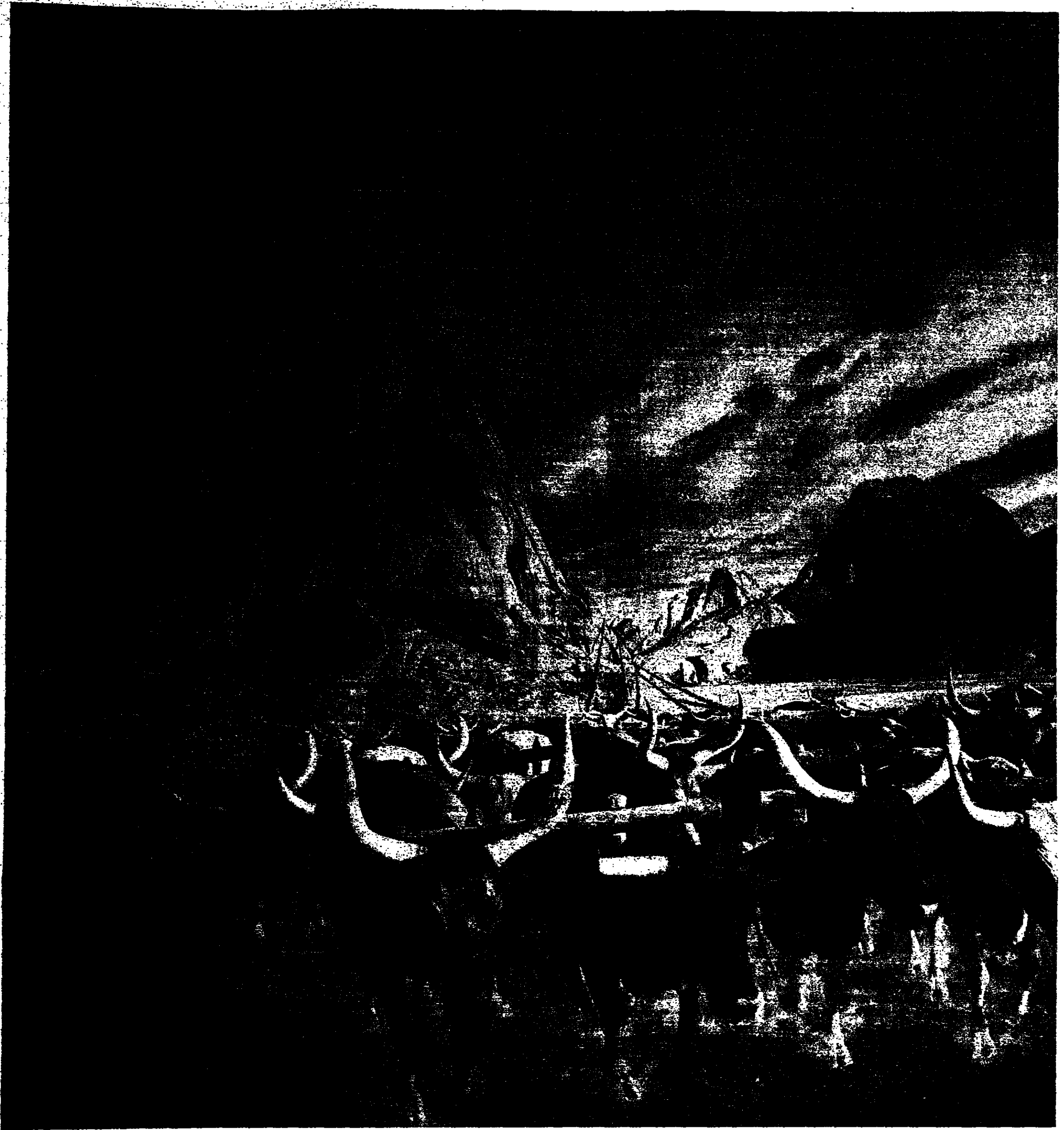
EUROPEAN COLOUR, the pigments and coatings business, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.48 million from £1.36 million in the half year to September 30.

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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers like 'Fund Name', 'Unit Price', 'Change', and 'Bid'. Includes various fund categories such as Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

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Molteni & C. advertisement for a pen, featuring the brand name and a large image of the pen.



POP 1
South Africa makes plans to preserve its tribal culture and nurture its young stars



POP 2
Dank and furtive, Tricky's music receives a dour and dramatic live presentation to match in Brixton

THE TIMES
ARTS



POP 3
... while, at Shepherds Bush, Sheryl Crow's show seemed prematurely middle-aged



RISING STAR
At 14, could the Welsh schoolgirl Rakhi Singh be the next violin prodigy?

Mohamed goes to the mountain

Nigel Williamson meets a man with a mighty task - to record South Africa's music before it is lost for ever

In the 1930s, Alan Lomax toured the southern states of America making a series of historic recordings for the Library of Congress. By doing so he rekindled a dying tradition of country blues sung by black sharecroppers, chain-gang convicts and others living in rural poverty, and put the world of music in his debt. During his travels he discovered the likes of Leadbelly and Blind Willie McTell and recorded for posterity a unique folk culture which later inspired a generation of musicians from Bob Dylan to Bruce Springsteen.

This month the veteran South African musician Pops Mohamed and his country's broadcasting corporation began a similar exercise across southern Africa. The intention is to record the music of rural tribes before that, too, is lost for ever. The project will take in the remarkable ritual music of the women dancers of Venda in northern Transvaal; the split-tone singers of the Xhosa in the Eastern Cape, whose extraordinary technique allows them to sing two notes simultaneously; and the timeless chants of the Khoi-San, the bushmen of the Kalahari. "This music is centuries old and it has to be carefully nurtured," Mohamed says. "And these musicians have to be recorded in the field because they are never going to enter a studio."

It is one of the ironies of a free South Africa that the survival of traditional music has never been more precarious. While the white regime ruled the country, tribal music was a badge of resistance, and a symbol of faith in indigenous culture. Today a democratic South Africa means a free range of influences across the rainbow nation and, like so much of the rest of the world, a creeping American cultural hegemony, even in the townships and the rural areas.

Terry Cohen, the drummer with the successful Johannesburg all-women group the Pressure Cookers, says: "The kids in Soweto want to have the same as kids of their age in America. It is all hip-hop and rap and back-to-front baseball caps.

They don't necessarily want to be reminded of their own cultural background."

Radio encourages this with an endless diet of the latest American sounds. Local musicians recently won a legal quota requiring stations to play 20 per cent South African music, but this still means four foreign acts for every South African artist given airplay. Five years ago a third of all record sales



“If people don't understand where they came from, there is a hole in the soul”

POPS MOHAMED

were by local artists. Today the figure is one in six.

Paul Kruger, the Boer War leader, said on his deathbed that "those who wish to create the future must not lose sight of the past". The old racist would seem to be an unlikely exemplar for black musicians but Mohamed, who has long been running a one-man crusade to keep traditional music alive, endorses the sentiment. "Through traditional music people can find

their own sense of African identity, a respect for themselves, their culture and for others," he says.

"People are letting their heritage die if they only listen to Western sounds. If they don't understand where they came from, there is a hole where the soul should be."

Mohamed strives ceaselessly to encourage young musicians to go back to their roots. When not recording or touring, he will be found running workshops in the townships, tutoring students on how to play traditional instruments. Although the South African Ministry of Culture is supportive, there is no government financial aid for such projects. In the reconstruction of modern South Africa there are more pressing priorities.

But Mohamed is no dyed-in-the-wool traditionalist. His last album, *Ancestral Healing*, combines contemporary instruments and electronics with a sense of his African background. Immediately before embarking on his tribal field recordings, he was on tour with Tananas, South Africa's top multi-racial jazz fusion band. His role was to add the African textures of the *koras* and the *mbira* to the Western rhythms.

Neither instrument is strictly South African: the *koras* is a 21-string harp from West Africa and the *mbira* is the traditional thumb piano of Zimbabwe. The ending of apartheid allowed musicians from across Africa to get together and develop a common musical heritage," Mohamed says. Some of the biggest selling world-music acts such as Baaba Maal and Youssou N'Dour have visited and played with local musicians, something which could never have happened under the old regime.

However, Hugh Masekela, the veteran jazz musician who returned to South Africa after 30 years in exile, complains that the music industry is still owned and run by whites. "There is no investment in the townships, and the whites still own everything," he says. "The whites are the only people who have been liberated, because they are no longer patrons."



On Johannesburg's streets the buskers still play traditional instruments. But what sells is hip-hop and rap, the music of the West

Kerry Friedman, the manager of Tananas, agrees in part, but sees development elsewhere. "The record industry here is totally hidebound," she says. "They don't really know what is happening." Instead, an entire subculture has grown up outside the mainstream which allows local Afro-pop acts to sell huge numbers of albums on small, independent labels without the benefit of company promotion or radio play. "Nobody in smart Johannesburg society has heard of a band like Penny Penny," Friedman says, "but they have sold

200,000 albums in the townships by word of mouth."

In some respects, it cannot be denied that a racial divide is still evident. Last month the American singer Tracy Chapman, who has probably played more anti-apartheid concerts in America and Europe than anyone, performed for 70,000 people at a racetrack outside Johannesburg. Before she went on stage, she looked out at a sea of white faces and asked what had happened to the rainbow nation. The answer was that, at 120 rands a ticket (about £17, or more than a

week's groceries), the audience was always going to be 95 per cent white. So she held a workshop in Soweto for those who could not afford the ticket price.

Musicians are struggling in the new South Africa - but then Nelson Mandela never promised anyone it was going to be easy. Johannesburg's most famous live music club, Kippie's, has temporarily closed after running into financial difficulties. Over at the Bass Line, another top jazz venue, Brad Holmes, the owner, has sold his car to pay some of the club's bills.

But the music remains vibrant and Friedman rounds on the pessimists. "We are free from the yoke of apartheid, so we are now moving beyond the political phase and concentrating on producing great music. There is an upsurge out there, so many great new bands."

It cannot be long before they make a major impact on the rest of the world, for, as even the otherwise pessimistic Masekela says: "South Africans are the most resilient, joyous people I know. And the music proves it."

POP AND JAZZ: An American songbird fails to take flight; Bristolian rapper keeps to the shadows; touching M-Base

Let's talk Glamour but not a lot to Crow about basic

WHEN Chicago-born saxophonist Steve Coleman and a small but influential group of like-minded musicians first burst on the New York scene in the mid 1980s, their brand of improvised music, a street-smart mix of jazz with hip-hop, soul and rap, was referred to by its adherents themselves as M-Base: Macro-Basic, Array of Structured

Steve Coleman
Jazz Café, NW1

Extemporisation. Born partly out of frustration at the prevalence in the contemporary jazz world of retro-jazz, and partly out of a straightforward desire, in Coleman's words, "to find a common language, based on a certain balance of structure and improvisation", M-Base music can strike the unprepared ear as a somewhat relentless barrage of hip virtuosity set to robotic beats.

Heard in its proper setting, though - a packed club with a standing audience - the great strengths of the style become immediately apparent. As soon as Coleman's five elements (keyboard player Andy Milne, bassist David Dyon, percussionist Anga Diaz Zayas and drummer Sean Rickman, plus an onstage dancer, Rosangela Silvestre) set up their hypnotic rhythm, the sheer visceral impact of the music took immediate hold. Bodies were set in motion, not to come to rest until nearly two hours later.

Coleman's alto sound is also very much an acquired taste. Slippery and dry at first, it owes enough stylistic debt to Charlie Parker, and is infused with sufficient soulful pep from the likes of James Brown's saxophonist Maceo Parker, to enable admirers of either influence to find a way into Coleman's music.

Coming as it did at the end of the ten-day Oris London Jazz Festival, Coleman's exhilarating display proved that the jazz scene is as vibrant and innovative as it ever was.

CHRIS PARKER

Many North American acts who enjoyed big-selling first albums in the 1990s have since found it hard to maintain momentum in Britain. Witness the disappointing sales of recent releases by Spin Doctors, Counting Crows, the Black Crowes and Crash Test Dummies, all albums which have fallen on the wrong side of the Britpop watershed.

It may be too soon to add another Crow to that list, but at this juncture it seems doubtful that Sheryl Crow's self-titled second album will scale the dizzy heights of her 1993 debut, *Tuesday Night Music Club*.

And for all its understated charm, her show at Shepherds Bush on Monday did seem prematurely middle-aged. Vintage tracks by the Stones, Dylan and Rod Stewart played reassuringly over the PA before Crow came on and struck up the opening riff of *Hard to Make a Stand*. A mid-tempo song with a Lou Reed-influenced swagger, it fitted seamlessly alongside the sounds that had gone before.

Despite boasting one of the most memorable choruses of the year, *If It Makes You Happy* was one of several

Sheryl Crow
Empire, W12

ensuing numbers that seemed to be stuck in third gear, confirming an impression of Crow as a performer with a lot of words and melody in her soul, but little sense of urgency in her style.

Although a glamorous figure in her skimpy black T-shirt and tight black trousers, with a succession of acoustic and electric guitars slung around her neck, she did not come across as a natural exhibitionist. Her five-piece backing band performed ably, but added little colour, and it took a while for the show to gather pace. But the sheer weight of great tunes gradually took effect: *Run, Baby, Run*, *Sweet Rosalyn*, *Maybe Angels* and *Can't Cry Anymore* all hit the spot with a satisfying grace.

Towards the end of the show, the band were joined by Crow's former employer and romantic companion of recent months, Eric Clapton. Despite looking as if he had been dragged away from a quiet night in front of the telly, he effortlessly upstaged the rock



Run, baby, run: Sheryl Crow's performance never really gets beyond third gear

ordinaire style of Crow's own guitarists.

His contribution to the songs, including *All I Wanna*

Do, Home, Superstar and a grandstanding finale of *Ordinary Morning*, finally tipped the balance, turning an enjoy-

able if somewhat workaday set into something special.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Awkward manoeuvres in the dark

Tricky
Fridge, SW2

ALTHOUGH last year's debut Tricky album, *Mavinquaye*, was wildly hailed as a new peak in left-field British pop, the first ramshackle live shows put together by this mercurial Bristolian rapper never quite did it justice.

Returning from voluntary exile in New York to showcase his second official album, *Pre-Millennium Tension*, Tricky has assembled a new band of session players and a fresh stage show. But, if anything, showmanship seems to be an even smaller consideration now. At Brixton's Fridge club on Monday, the six-strong group delivered the entire 90-minute set entombed in sepulchral gloom, illuminated only by occasional splashes of billous green and purple light. Tricky himself spent much of the show with his back to the audience and, with fellow lead vocalist Martina Topley-Bird, in murky silhouette.

An awkward non-conformist stance, perhaps, but one which suited the music's dank, furtive, claustrophobic

mood to perfection. While these endlessly repeated drum loops and freeform asthmatic rasps occasionally overstepped the line between compelling intensity and turgid self-indulgence, Tricky's latest band still brought most of them vividly to life, from the simmering slow-motion funk of *Christiansands* to the grinding industrial cacophony of *Vent*.

Strikingly, there was a punkish energy to much of the set which was previously confined to Tricky's records alone. A ferocious new composition with the working title *Stevie Wonder* certainly found its author on combative form, snarling like a West Country gangsta rapper over relentless waves of rattling percussion.

Yet, ironically, Tricky's uniqueness derives from being a rapper who publicly airs his vulnerable, intro-

spective and feminine qualities alongside his brooding machismo. He may play up his demonic side, but Topley-Bird is clearly his guardian angel, bringing some semblance of harmony to his fevered vision. And to his credit, Tricky allowed her heavenly voice to shine on many highlights at Brixton, including the eerily beautiful former single *Overcome* and the high-speed rap marathon *Lyrics of Fury*.

So it seems that not only has Tricky learnt how to present his music in a suitably dramatic manner, but also that he has done so by defiantly rejecting the fashionable "trip-hop" label which has dogged his career to date. While that nebulous tag has come to signify tasteless background music, Tricky willfully pursues an ever darker and dirtier muse. Just as long as Topley-Bird is there to act as ying to his yang, Tricky's live shows will remain starkly uncompromising but spellbinding experiences.

STEPHEN DALTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
RAKHI SINGH

Age: 14

Why is she in the news? Accompanied by the London Philharmonic, she will be playing Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1 in G Minor at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Saturday, as a finalist in the tenth Audi Junior Musician competition. Victory would bring a trophy and £2,000.

Home town: Llandybie, South Wales. She has been at Chetham's School of Music, in Manchester, since passing a demanding audition at the age of nine.

What's her secret? "I have perfect pitch, which helps a lot. Violin playing is just something I can do naturally, the way some people are good at catching a ball."

Musical genes: Her uncle, Gordon Gange, is a violinist with the BBC Philharmonic. Her mother, Dorothy, teaches violin at Trinity College, Carmarthen, and put a tiny fiddle into Rakhi's hands when she was three. Her brother, 11-year-old Davi-Jo, is also at Chetham's, studying - you guessed it - violin. "Dad's the odd one out. He prefers cricket."

Dedication: "I practise four hours a day in term time, plus about five hours' school work. In the holidays I sometimes practise five hours a day."

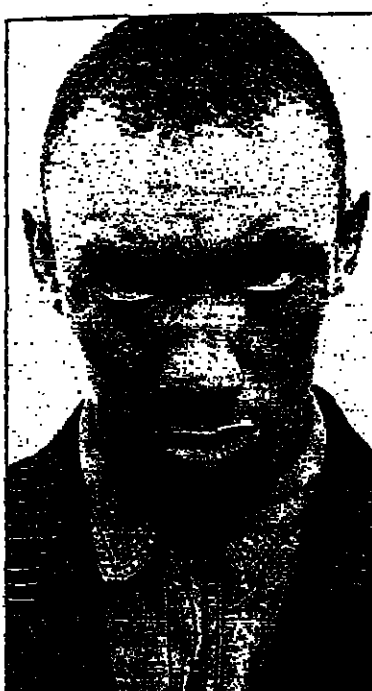
Heroes? "I worship Heifetz and Perlman. They both have amazing, unique styles."

Wish list: "I don't own my own violin." She will play the Bruch on a violin made in Paris in 1880, on loan from J. & A. Beare of London.

Positive thinking: "Whether I win or not, I'll have had the chance to play solo with a professional orchestra in a big London concert hall. What more could you ask for?"

Ambition: "I would love to be a soloist, but I'd be happy to play in an orchestra. I couldn't live without the violin."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL



Tricky: airing his feminine qualities alongside his machismo

Thu 21 Nov 7.30pm
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Tokyo String Quartet
Schubert String Quartet in C minor, D703 Quartettsatz
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Emily Lloyd takes to the stage for Max Klapper - A Life in Pictures

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Electric Cinema

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Stockhausen and more: Britain's top new-music festival opens

VENUE: From today across Huddersfield

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

Bob Hoskins returns to the stage in Old Wicked Songs, a dark play that doesn't quite work

OPERA

Making her Covent Garden debut, Solveig Kringleborn excels in Don Giovanni

LONDON

THE BELLEVUE: Good and rago in a curious 1920s novel... FAIR LADIES AT A GAME OF POOL CARDS

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

EMILY LLOYD: A young actress... MAX KLAPPER - A LIFE IN PICTURES

LONDON GALLERIES

British Library Galleries... THE MUSEUM

Minor, but far from flat

In the early 1980s we saw Bob Hoskins joyfully being perky, ferocious, jolly, grim and brutish on the London stage.

THEATRE

Old Wicked Songs Gielgud

Hoskins's Maskhan is a professor of feeling, or, as Maskhan solemnly puts it, "this combination of joy and sadness, this is the core of truly beautiful music".



If the Schumann fits: James Callis (Stephen Hoffman) and Bob Hoskins (Joseph Maskhan) bring harmony to their troubled souls

ELSEWHERE

BLACKPOOL: Lindsay Kemp combines live music by Carlo Miranda.

NOTTINGHAM

Robert Lippman's 'Vanities on the Stage' resumes at the stage.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jenny Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

BY JEVIES

Delightful musical comedy by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the Woodhouse heroes' first attempted 20 years ago, now entirely revised.

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LONG RUNNERS

Buddy Stuard (0171-630 8800) The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) Cramer (0171-331 1727)

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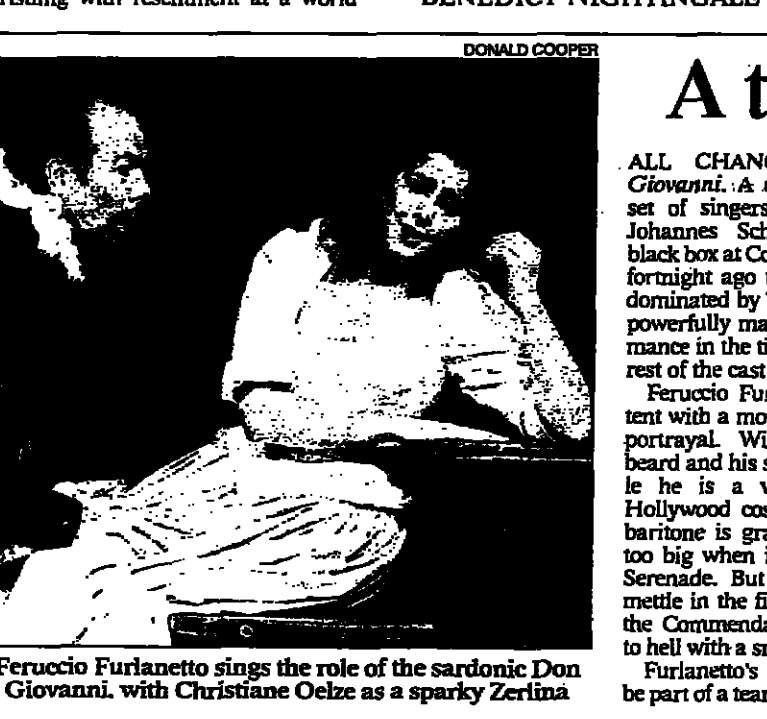
THE DAY THE SUN TURNED GOLD (12) Spectacular Hong Kong drama... THE FIRST WIVES CLUB (PG)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol * on release across the country

LONG RUNNERS

Buddy Stuard (0171-630 8800) The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) Cramer (0171-331 1727)



Feruccio Furlanetto sings the role of the sardonic Don Giovanni, with Christine Oelze as a spunky Zerlina

A triumph for team play

ALL CHANGE for Don Giovanni. A completely new set of singers now inhabits Johannes Schaa's unlovely black box at Covent Garden.

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BUILDINGS

The banks that like to say 'What are you having?' counting-houses find new life in the pub trade

CONCERT 1

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies brings a capacity audience to the Bridgewater Hall with a nostalgic new work

THE TIMES ARTS

CONCERT 2

... and Brahms gets the Andras Schiff treatment at the launch of a mini-festival in the Wigmore Hall

OFFER

Special prices to see the Royal Ballet dance MacMillan: see Theatre Club, below

CONCERTS: A Davies premiere; plus London reviews

Blackboard memories

IF A glamorous touring orchestra such as the San Francisco Symphony cannot fill the Bridgewater Hall, what chance, without a star conductor or popular soloist, has the BBC Philharmonic of half-filling it? The unlikely answer is that the BBC PO's latest concert - in which Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducted a new piece of his own, Throstle's Nest Junction, together with works by Bruch, Sibelius and Shostakovich - was all but sold out.

BBC PO/Maxwell Davies Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

The conclusion must be that, after an opening which could scarcely have been more disastrous if the executives of the Hall and of the new building had conspired to sink it, the Bridgewater Hall is beginning to stimulate public

interest. Certainly, from a seat near the front of the choir circle and with an orchestra playing into the auditorium rather than resting on acoustic illusions on the platform, the hall is sounding very much better.

Thin in musical substance but abundant in sonorous effects, the new Davies piece needs conditions like that. Some of the sounds, such as the simulated tramcar bell, are immediately and nostalgically identifiable; others, like the rattled dustbin lid and the chalk scraped on blackboards, have a visual interest if no obvious meaning. All of them are inspired by the composer's memories of the Salford in which he grew up in the 1930s. Anyway, Throstle's Nest Junction is an advance on the last piece in the series, Cross Lane Fair; at least in that the theatrical element - four bursting balloons in this case instead of a juggling act - is actually integrated into the texture.

After an engaging but sometimes cautious account of Bruch's Violin Concerto in G minor by Olivier Charlier, who really needed to get on with it towards the end of the last movement, and some lovely cor anglais playing in The Swan of Tuonela, Davies conducted a particularly interesting interpretation of Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony. He clearly does not take the view that, despite outward appearances, it has to be treated as a merely jokey or even predominantly light-hearted piece. He detected profound unease in the slow movement, and found a threat even amid the burlesque episodes of the finale.

Andras Schiff Wigmore Hall

Friendly fire

AS AN early upbeat to next year's Brahms centenary celebrations, Andras Schiff launched his five-concert series of the composer's chamber music with piano at the weekend. It was, inevitably, yet another of the Schiff-and-friends style mini-festivals for which the Wigmore Hall is now famous: music-making at once relaxed and demanding.

The first concert began with one of the last works, the Trio in A minor for clarinet, cello and piano. Distilled in matter and compressed in manner, this is some of Brahms's most cool writing and it never responds well to over-heating. The steady, contained inwardness of Elmar Schmidt's clarinet song, and Boris Pergamenschikov's minutely responsive, charcoal-toned cello playing went to the very heart of the work. And Schiff, at his most focused and resolute, held together the subtle oppositions of instrumental colour.

Schiff's wife, Yuzko Shikawa, joined him for the Violin Sonata No 1 in G. True

to form. Schiff charged the batteries of the performance and provided its main expressive contours, while Shikawa responded with clarity.

The high point of the evening was the Piano Quartet No 1 in G minor which concluded it. The daringly long and eager first move-

ment of this early work can, in less sensitive hands, seem long-winded. Here, though, its long and ever-expanding themes were revealed as the searching and variegated creatures that they are. Song became march and, before we knew it, had tumbled over into the final Rondo alla Zingarese, with Schiff's fingers recreating a one-man gypsy band of thrillingly idiomatic pulse, rhythm and accent.

HILARY FINCH

GERALD LARNER

Flurries of rich feeling

London Sinfonietta Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE composer Sofia Gubaidulina is 65, and in celebration the London Sinfonietta invited her to its all-Gubaidulina programme on Saturday. She is one of the most distinctive voices to have emerged from the old Soviet Union: she acknowledges Shostakovich and Berg as mentors, not for their sound but because they taught her to be herself.

Gubaidulina would probably have been herself anyway. Now resident in Germany, she is one of the few composers of the Russian school not to dwell nostalgically on the past. Most of her music seems to pize by turns fearfully and fearlessly into the future.

Even her 1983 Meditation on the Bach Chaconne, Before Thy Throne I Come, O Lord, for flutes and harpsichord, a this visionary quality. String mingles set against a brittle harpsichord are interrupted by suburbs of gruff double

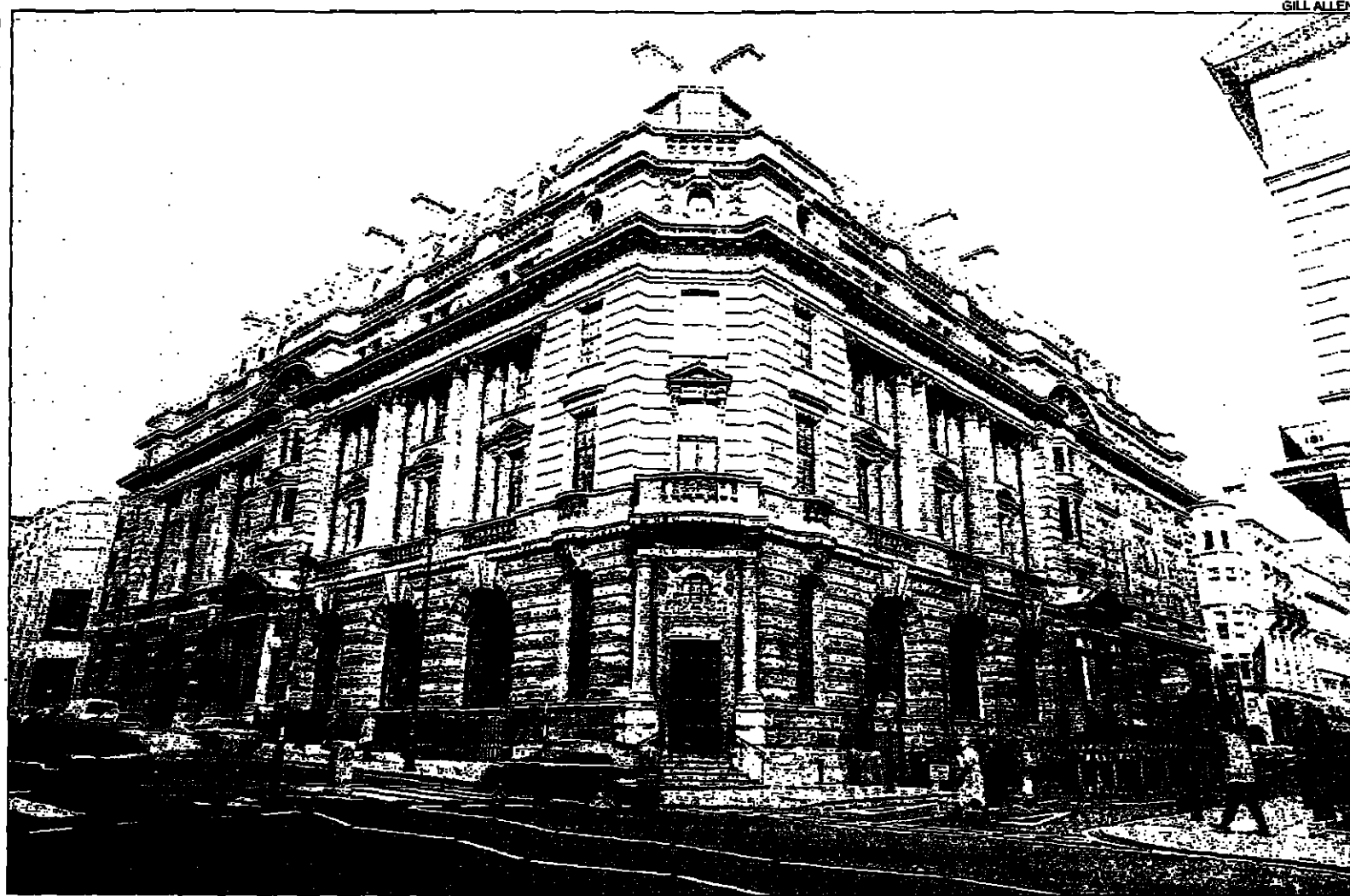
bass, flutterings and howlings from the upper instruments, very effective in this first London performance.

Gubaidulina's Seven Last Words (1982) has had several performances in this country, but none surely better balanced than here by the conductor Markus Stenz. The religious theme, originally disguised, is typical of the composer's Soviet period, but still

the work is not all retrospective. It takes the form of a seven-movement chamber concerto for cello, accordion and string orchestra. Karine Georgian's big, majestic cello tone and the powerful stinging chords and flashes of silvery brilliance from James Crabb's accordion sustained interest where motifs are used a little repetitively.

Most rewarding of all was the first British performance of Now Always Snow, for chamber choir and ensemble. Four of the five movements are settings of evocative poetry by Gennadi Aigi. The short lyrical fragments, woven into rich vocal textures, were sung with feeling and precision by the London Sinfonietta Voices, and the players dispatched the light, furling accompaniments with ease. The narrator was Seva Novgorodsev.

JOHN ALLISON



The former Lloyds Bank building on the corner of King Street and St James's Street in the heart of London has stood vacant for nearly a decade

The cheque's in the past

Wanted: a new life for thousands of architecturally distinguished old banks. Marcus Binney reports

THE lights burn late in the Old Bank of England, and the cast-iron vases outside are flaming like Olympic torches long into the evening. This is the new Fiddlers Ale & Pie House next to the Strand Law Courts in London, and it is one of a growing breed of redundant banks now stylishly transformed into pubs, wine bars and restaurants.

Inside, you no longer tread in fear of the bank manager. The mahogany counters have become bars, swagged curtains fill the huge arched windows and the walls are hung with old prints which seem to include every bank that opened for business in the capital before 1900.

If all this is too glib for your taste, walk on to the Kingsway corner of the Aldwych. That is where Bank - the latest London super-diner, seating 200 - has opened in a former NatWest, with columns painted in lurid colours and a cocktail bar as long as any in Manhattan.

Banks always had the money to build on the best sites in town, often on prominent corners. They liked an air of permanence about their buildings and chose the finest Portland stone and granite, bronze doors and window frames - all to convey the message 'your money is safe'.

But the banking world is changing fast. With cash machines, telephone and TV banking taking over, different sites are needed. Trevor Fishlock of Barclays says: "Banking is shifting from town centres. We want to be next to Marks & Spencer in good retail pitches." Mike Vertigan of NatWest agrees: "We are piloting branches in shopping centres with nappy-changing facilities and coffee."

Consequently, vast numbers of old banks have been made redundant. Lloyds TSB has disposed of 400 of its 2,800 branches since 1990, and 150 more are in line for closure next year. NatWest has cut back from 3,000 to 2,000 branches in five years and will slim to 1,750 by the millennium. In Scotland, home of the Clydesdale, the Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland, it is the same. John Hume, chief inspector for Historic Scotland, says: "There are numerous empty suburban branches as well as fine headquarters buildings in Edinburgh and Glasgow."

The question is: what will become of these often handsome buildings? In London's fashionable St James's Street, a magnificent Lloyds has stood empty for nearly a decade. At the bottom of Lower Regent Street the former premises of the bankers Cox & Co have stood empty for nearly as long.

Yet overall the picture is encouraging. Matthew Saunders, of the Ancient Monument Society, reports: "There has been an explosion of good uses for banks, from bookshops to pizza parlours. In Hull alone, I saw three conversions which could hardly be faulted." The pub chain Weatherpoons was the first and the fastest to take on banks, giving them such tongue-in-cheek names as The Standing Order, The Banker's Draft and, opening in Glasgow next month, The Counting House. The company is happy to leave the premises looking like a bank outside. It makes the interior

all the more of a surprise. "We'd willingly open a pub in a bank every day of the week. We have agents looking for sites. They're all centrally located and busy all day long," says the company's Eddie Gershon.

In Brighton, Peppers, in a former NatWest in North Street, is one of a chain of six Whitbread character pubs. The company hopes to open a hundred more. "We seat 150, open for breakfast at eight and serve food all day. We've kept the original pillars inside but split the interior into different levels," says the manager, Joss Wickson.

Others go solo. The architect Annie Duquemin works with her partner from an old Midland Bank in Nottingham. "When we took out the false ceilings we found there was enough height for a mezzanine. We've used a lot of the old fittings and put clear glass in the windows, so it's wonderfully airy, though it also feels very secure," she says. Not far away, another Midland branch has been turned into a wine shop.

The new restaurateurs like the loftiness of banking halls. "We have not had a single application to demolish. The banks don't even object when their buildings are proposed for listing," says Matthew Saunders.

The problem of vacant bank premises is at its most severe in central London. Paul Velluet of English Heritage says: "At the last count there were ten wholly vacant banking halls out of 31 in the heart

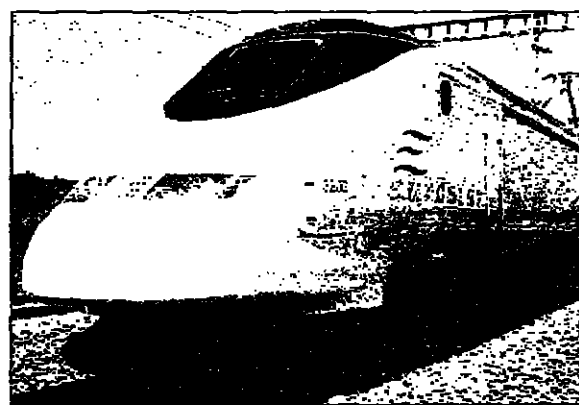
The National Provincial gave virtually all its work between the wars to two salaried architects, F.C.R. Palmer and W.F.C. Holden. The Westminster discovered Septimus Warwick, whose designs were acclaimed at the Royal Academy, and Martin's best work was done by Darcy Braddell.

The Midland used Lutyns and was alone in building many single-storey banks, with a banking hall fronted by lofty columns and nothing above. "We are bankers, not property owners," said its architect, Alfred Gotch, who had such confidence in the impregnability of the Midland strong-rooms that he felt that there was no need for anyone to live on the premises.

Architects between the wars doubted whether there was a building that could proclaim by its very look "I am a banking establishment". Yet in the end this has been a strength. Today only the pattern of screw holes in the frieze gives a clue to the familiar name that once announced your money was safe.

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CHANGING TIMES

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

LONDON Royal Opera House Nov 30, 12 noon MEMBERS can buy orchestra stalls tickets for £18.50 (normally £37) for the Royal Ballet's special matinee of Winter Dreams, Kenneth MacMillan's interpretation of Chekov's Three Sisters, set to music by Tchaikovsky; Ashley Page's new Two-part Invention, to music by Prokofiev, and William Forsythe's Steppes, to music by Bach. Tel 0171-304 4000, quoting your membership number. Mermaid Theatre Nov 26, 7.30pm AN ENCHANTING piece of theatre. Le Cercle Invisible stars Jean Baptiste Thierree and Victoria Chaplin in a mixture of music, acrobatics and illusion. First-night tickets are £5 (normally £13.50 to £19.50). Tel 0171-236 2211, quoting your membership number. RICHMOND Orange Tree Theatre Nov 27, 8pm TWO £9 tickets for the price of one for the opening night of Alan Ayckbourn's Family Circles. Tel 0181-940 3633. GLASGOW Theatre Royal Nov 27 SAVE 25 per cent on tickets (normally £4.50 to £16.50) to

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

Communicado Theatre Company's Scottish version of Rosland's comedy, Cyrano De Bergerac. Tel 0141-332 9000. MANCHESTER NIA Centre Nov 29-30 TWO £7 tickets for the price of one for Bunny Manthias & Co's Viewpoint, a new production that breaks away from the conventions of set design. Tel 0161-277 9254. SOUTH SHIELDS Customs House Dec 2 SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £10) to an evening of blues, New Orleans jazz, Duke Ellington numbers, spirituals and ragtime. TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8LL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.

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Law Report November 20 1996 Court of Appeal

Calculating credit for time spent in custody on remand

Regina v Governor of Brockhill Prison. Ex parte Evans

Regina v Governor of Onley Young Offender Institution. Ex parte Reid

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Bledford

[Judgment November 15]

Where concurrent sentences were imposed on a prisoner in respect of offences for which he had spent separate periods in custody on remand, the term he was required to serve would be reduced by all remand time relating to those offences, save that time could never count more than once, and not only by the specific period of remand referable to the latest sentence to expire.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when:

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC and Mr Peter Wetherby for the first applicant; Mr Michael Mansfield, QC and Mr Martin Scroop for the second applicant; Mr Stephen Richards and Mr Michael Fordham for the respondents.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that if a defendant spent time in custody awaiting trial for a single offence, and if on conviction he was sentenced to a term of custody, the term he was required to serve would be reduced by the period spent in custody before sentence, unless during that period he was in custody for some other offence for which he was sentenced.

If he spent time in custody awaiting trial for more than one offence, and was sentenced to consecutive terms of custody on conviction, the total term he was required to serve would be reduced by the total period he spent in custody awaiting trial for more than one offence, subject to the same exception as before, at any rate so long as the period spent on remand for any offence did not exceed the period to be served of the consecutive sentence imposed for that offence.

The present applications concerned a third situation: where a defendant spent time in custody awaiting trial for more than one offence, and was on conviction sentenced to concurrent or overlapping terms of custody, to what extent was account to be taken of time spent in custody before the sentences were imposed?

In the first application, the applicant had in January 1996 been sentenced to two years imprisonment for robbery, nine months for each of two burglaries and three months for assault. All sentences were concurrent, her total sentence being two years.

In May 1995 she had been arrested for burglary and spent two days in police custody before being bailed. In June 1995 she was re-arrested and held in custody on the burglary and assault charges until August 1995 when she was bailed; that amounted to 62 days in custody. For 73 days from October 1995 until January 1996 she was remanded in custody on the robbery charge alone.

His Lordship said that on the respondent's calculation the two-year sentence was treated as one of 731 days. To calculate the date on which her sentence expired the respondent deducted the 73 days spent in custody in relation to the robbery charge, that being the longest, and in the respondent's contention the dominant sentence. On that basis the effective sentence was one of 658 days and expired on October 30, 1997.

To calculate her conditional release date, the respondent took the length of the sentence as reduced by the 73 days remand time on the robbery charge and deducted 365 days, the period of the sentence which a short-term prisoner was not obliged to serve. That yielded a total of 293 days.

The applicant accepted 73 days as the length of the sentence but sought to deduct from it 135 days, being the sum of the 62 days on remand for burglary, including the 40 days spent at the same time on the assault charge, plus the 73 days on the robbery charge, giving

a total effective sentence of 596 days, yielding a sentence expiry date of August 29, 1997.

To calculate her conditional release date, deducting the 365 days which did not need to be served by a short-term prisoner, a figure of 231 days was obtained.

The essential difference between the two modes of calculation was clear.

The respondent allocated time spent in custody to the particular offence for which the applicant had been at the relevant time held in custody. Thus, since the sentences were all imposed at the same time and the longest imposed was that of two years for robbery, that period was reduced only by the 73 days spent in custody on that charge. The 62 days did not reduce the period the applicant was required to serve.

The applicant did not seek to count twice the period of 69 days when she was held for the burglary and assault charges but did claim that the 62 days for the robbery charge should be added together and deducted from the length of the total sentence. The same issue had arisen on the second application.

The respondent's approach had been called the particular approach, and that of the applicant the aggregate approach.

Relevant statutory provisions His Lordship referred to section 33(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which required the secretary of state to release on licence a short-term prisoner, such as each applicant, after serving one half of his sentence, and to section 51(2) which required any reference, however expressed, to the term of imprisonment to which a person had been sentenced, whether consecutive or wholly or partly concurrent, to be treated as a single term.

Section 41, whereby remand time was to count towards time served, applied by subsection (1) to any person whose sentence fell to be reduced under section 67 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 by any relevant period within the meaning of that section, and provided by subsection (2) that for purposes of determining whether a person had served one-half of his sentence the relevant period was to be treated as having been served by him as part of that sentence.

On that approach, sections 10(2) of the 1967 Act and 51(2) of the 1991 Act could have little or no bearing. The earlier subsection was directed to the calculation, for example, of release dates; as was the later subsection which was also directed to determining whether a person was a long-term or a short-term prisoner.

The applicants had relied on section 51(2) of the 1991 Act, alternatively section 10(2) of the 1967 Act, contending that:

(i) since any reference to the term of imprisonment to which a prisoner had been sentenced, however it might be expressed, was to be understood as treating consecutive terms and wholly or partly concurrent terms as a single term; and

(ii) since, unless the contrary intention appeared, words in the singular included the plural, the sentence or sentences passed by the court and the offence or offences for which it or they were passed, had to be treated as giving rise, whether the sentences were concurrent or consecutive, to a single term, in reduction of which the whole period of pre-sentence custody, unless served for some unrelated reason, was to be set in calculating the release date.

The respondents had relied on four decisions of the Divisional Court, to which his Lordship referred and in which the particular approach applied to concurrent sentences had been upheld: *R v Governor of Brixton Prison, Ex parte Gaffney* (1982) 1 W.L.R. 696, *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Read* (1987) 9 Cr App R (S) 206, *R v Governor of HM Prison Styal, Ex parte Mooney* (1996) 1 Cr App R 741 and *Ex parte Woodard and Ex parte Wilson* (unreported, June 24, 1996, DC).

He also referred to criticism of that approach and those decisions expressed by Dr D. A. Thomas in *Criminal Law Review* (1995) 207-23, *Current Sentencing Practice News* (Issue 4, August 1995) and *Current Sentencing Practice News* (Issue 4, November 1996) and to the decision of the Divisional Court in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Naughton* (The Times September 17, 1996).

In that case, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Poppelwell had agreed both as to the absurdity of the particular approach as applied to concurrent sentences and in expressing reservations as to the correctness of the decisions on concurrent sentences.

Although the facts did not there require the court to choose between the aggregate and the particular approach, the latter would have preferred the former.

Conclusions Section 33(1) of the 1991 Act required the secretary of state to release each of the applicants after serving one-half of their sentences, the word "sentence" being interpreted in the light of section 51(2), that any reference to a term of imprisonment, however expressed, was to be understood as treating consecutive terms and wholly or partly concurrent terms as a single term; and

(ii) since, unless the contrary intention appeared, words in the singular included the plural, the sentence or sentences passed by the court and the offence or offences for which it or they were passed, had to be treated as giving rise, whether the sentences were concurrent or consecutive, to a single term, in reduction of which the whole period of pre-sentence custody, unless served for some unrelated reason, was to be set in calculating the release date.

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where the lender was seeking to enter into possession in order to sell property in which there was negative equity and where the sole object with which the borrower sought that order was to prevent the lender exercising his right to possession so that the mortgagee could negotiate his own sale while in possession.

Even if one assumed that the Chancery court had power to order sale of mortgaged property on terms that displaced the lender's right to possession, it did not follow that the county court, as part of its inherent jurisdiction, could properly suspend an order or warrant for possession in order to enable a borrower to apply to the High Court for an order under section 91.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT, concurring, said that *Palk* established that where the lender had no wish to realise its security in the foreseeable future the borrower might obtain an order for sale even though the proceeds of sale would be insufficient to discharge the mortgage debt.

It did not support the making of such an order where the lender was likely to have the greater possession and enforce its security by sale.

Still less did it support the giving of the conduct of the sale to the borrower in a case where there was negative equity and the lender was likely to have the greater incentive to obtain the best price and the quickest sale.

Both those steps were taken in *Barrett* and his Lordship had serious doubts whether that case was rightly decided. In fairness to the judge it did not appear to have been argued as a matter of principle: the borrower's application was resisted on purely pragmatic grounds and somewhat feeble ones at that.

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County court cannot stay possession order pending High Court hearing

Cheltenham and Gloucester plc v Krausz and Another

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Phillips

[Judgment October 22]

The county court had no jurisdiction to suspend a warrant for a possession of mortgaged property in order to enable the borrower to apply to the High Court for an order for sale of the property under section 91(2) of the Law of Property Act 1925.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Cheltenham and Gloucester plc against an order of Judge Green in Shoreditch County Court staying execution on a warrant for possession of a property mortgaged to it by the defendants, Aaron Krausz and Rebecca Josephine Krausz, pending an application to the High Court under section 91(2).

Ms Kathryn Purkis for the plaintiff; Mr H. J. Smith for the second defendant; the first defendant was not represented and did not appear.

LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS said that *Palk Mortgage Services Finance Ltd* (1991) Ch 330 established for the first time that the court had power under section 91(2) to make an order for sale on the application of a borrower notwithstanding that the proceeds of sale would be insufficient to discharge the mortgage debt.

The lenders had obtained an order for possession with the intention, not of proceeding to sale, but of waiting in the hope that the market might improve. The borrower sought to suspend the order, as to reduce the mortgage debt on which interest was accruing at an alarming rate.

The court held that, as the lenders could buy the property at a price which would speculate on an increase in its value, the property should be sold.

In *Barrett v Haldiff Building Society* (1995) 28 H.L.R. 634 the situation was one of negative equity. The lenders resisted the borrowers' application for an order for sale pursuant to section 91.

The lenders did not contend that they would be able to obtain a better price but urged that if the sale went ahead it would break their established policy not to permit borrowers with negative equity themselves to exercise the right of sale of their property without at the same time making proposals for the repayment of any resulting deficit.

The judge had held that that was not a material circumstance which he ought to take into account when exercising his discretion.

The consequences of the procedure followed in *Barrett* appeared to be far-reaching. In any case in which there was negative equity it would be open to the borrower to resist an order for possession on the ground that he wished to obtain a better price by remaining in possession and selling the property himself.

In not every case would the primary motive for such an application be the wish to obtain a better price than that which the lender was likely to obtain on a forced sale. Often the borrower would be anxious to postpone the evil day when he had to leave his home.

realisation of the property by seeking too high a price or deliberately procrastinating on completion.

At present there was a simple procedure for seeking possession in the county court and the issue tended to be whether there were arrears and whether the borrower was likely to be able to discharge them in reasonable time.

If an application was to be suspended whenever that appeared reasonable in order to give borrowers the opportunity to sell the property themselves, the courts were going to have to enter into an area of difficult factual inquiry in order to decide in the individual case whether or not that course would be to the common benefit of mortgagor and mortgagee.

Furthermore there would be obvious practical difficulties for lenders in monitoring the negotiations of borrowers who were permitted time to market their properties.

For those reasons it seemed that the procedure followed in *Barrett* tended fundamentally to undermine the value of the lender's entitlement to possession.

The right of the lender to enter into possession of the mortgaged property was one which the common law protected strictly. The rigours of the common law in that respect were mitigated by section 36 of the Administration of Justice Act 1973, later amended by section 81) of the Administration of Justice Act 1973.

The effect of section 36, as amended, on the power to suspend possession was as follows:

1 The power could be exercised to enable the borrower to pay off instalment arrears due under the mortgage agreement from sources other than the sale of the mortgaged property, but

2 if the borrower intended to sell the mortgaged property to provide the source of payment, the court had to be satisfied that the proceeds would be sufficient to discharge the entirety of the mortgage debt.

Before the decision in *Palk* it seemed that section 36 and section 91 contended for in relation to an application under section 91 would only be contemplated where the proceeds of sale were expected to exceed the mortgage debt. In those circumstances section 36 gave the court power to suspend possession to enable an application for sale under section 91 to be made.

It was, however, quite clear that section 36 did not empower the court to suspend possession in order to permit the mortgagor to sell the mortgaged premises where the mortgage debt would not be fully discharged and it was in those circumstances that the lender's rights were of particular importance.

It was questionable whether the principle of the inherent jurisdiction of the court could justify the court in exercising its power to order a sale of mortgaged property under section 91 in circumstances

unable to invoke any statutory power to suspend the lender's right to enter possession.

The specific delimitation of the power given by section 36 made it clear that the legislation did not intend that the court should have any wider jurisdiction to curtail the lender's right to possession. That right enabled the lender to exercise his power of sale in the manner of his own choice, subject to the borrower's right to be heard.

Section 36 circumscribed that right where the proceeds of sale were likely to discharge the mortgage debt. It did not do so where the mortgage debt would not be fully discharged and it was in those circumstances that the lender's rights were of particular importance.

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Power to stay possession until lender sells property

Cheltenham and Gloucester plc v Booker and Another

Before Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment November 14]

The county court had jurisdiction to give the conduct of a sale of a property to a mortgagee while postponing the execution of a warrant for possession until completion of the sale, although the circumstances in which such a course would be appropriate were hard to envisage.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff lender, Cheltenham and Gloucester plc, against the order of Judge Millett at Stoke on Trent County Court on April 30, 1996 postponing execution of a warrant for possession of a property against the defendant borrowers, Robert and Susan Booker, but giving the plaintiff conduct of the sale of the property. The court directed that the warrant for possession could be executed immediately.

Ms Elizabeth Ovey for the plaintiff; the defendants did not appear.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the issue was whether the court had jurisdiction, and if so in what circumstances should it exercise such jurisdiction, to give conduct of a sale to a lender while postponing the execution of the warrant for possession until completion of the sale.

The plaintiff said that there were three questions of principle: 1 Where the power to suspend execution given by section 36(2) of the Administration of Justice Act 1970 could not be exercised because it did not appear to the court that the requirements of section 36(1) of that Act, read in conjunction with

lender's insistence on immediate possession prior to sale.

However, experience showed that those conditions were seldom likely to be satisfied and the jurisdiction should be exercised sparingly and with great caution. If they insisted the court was likely to have entrusted the conduct of the sale to the borrower.

Indeed, there was an inherent illogicality in entrusting conduct of the sale to the lender and leaving the borrower in possession pending completion.

The obtaining of possession was part of the necessary arrangements for sale and the party having conduct of the sale ought normally to have the right to decide when possession should be obtained from those occupying it.

Accordingly, while his Lordship would not hold that the court had no jurisdiction to make an order of the kind made by the judge, he found it difficult to envisage circumstances in which it would be appropriate. Such an order should certainly be a rarity, and only if the necessary conditions were satisfied.

The judge had said that he had made the order so that the plaintiff could realise the security at the best possible price by an early sale of the property and that the highest price would be achieved in the event of total cooperation by the defendants while they remained in possession.

In fact the evidence showed that the defendants were unlikely to cooperate with the plaintiff and the order had not been appropriate in those circumstances.

Lord Justice Potter agreed. Solicitors: Church Adams Tatham.

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The Simmonses turned an unremarkable bungalow into a spacious luxury cottage. Rachel Kelly finds out how



The bungalow, above, that Dave and Chris Simmons bought was the wrong property in the right place. Eleven years, £62,000 and many sleepless nights later, the transformation, right, is complete

Dull bricks to a thatched dream

Now you see a plain 1920s bungalow, now a magnificent chocolate-box thatched cottage. It is hard to believe the one could ever be transformed into the other. Yet Dave Simmons and his wife Chris achieved it.

below," Mrs Simmons says. "But the council objected, because the roof would have been too high for a conservation area. They were more likely to agree to a thatched roof - which we had always wanted but never dared to ask for - because it was more in keeping with the local countryside."

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'Tigermania' quick to take hold Down Under

Patricia Davies meets the young American stealing the limelight from Greg Norman at the Australian Open

The man is unreal. He is barely out of his teens, but he conducts himself with a poise that men many years his senior never acquire. He is just a golfer, a professional for less than three months, but already he is threatening to transcend his sport. He is tall, dark, handsome, articulate, smart, rich (his deals with Nike and Titleist are worth some \$60 million), has a smile that will turn many a female knee to jelly, is not afraid to speak his mind and has just hit Australia.

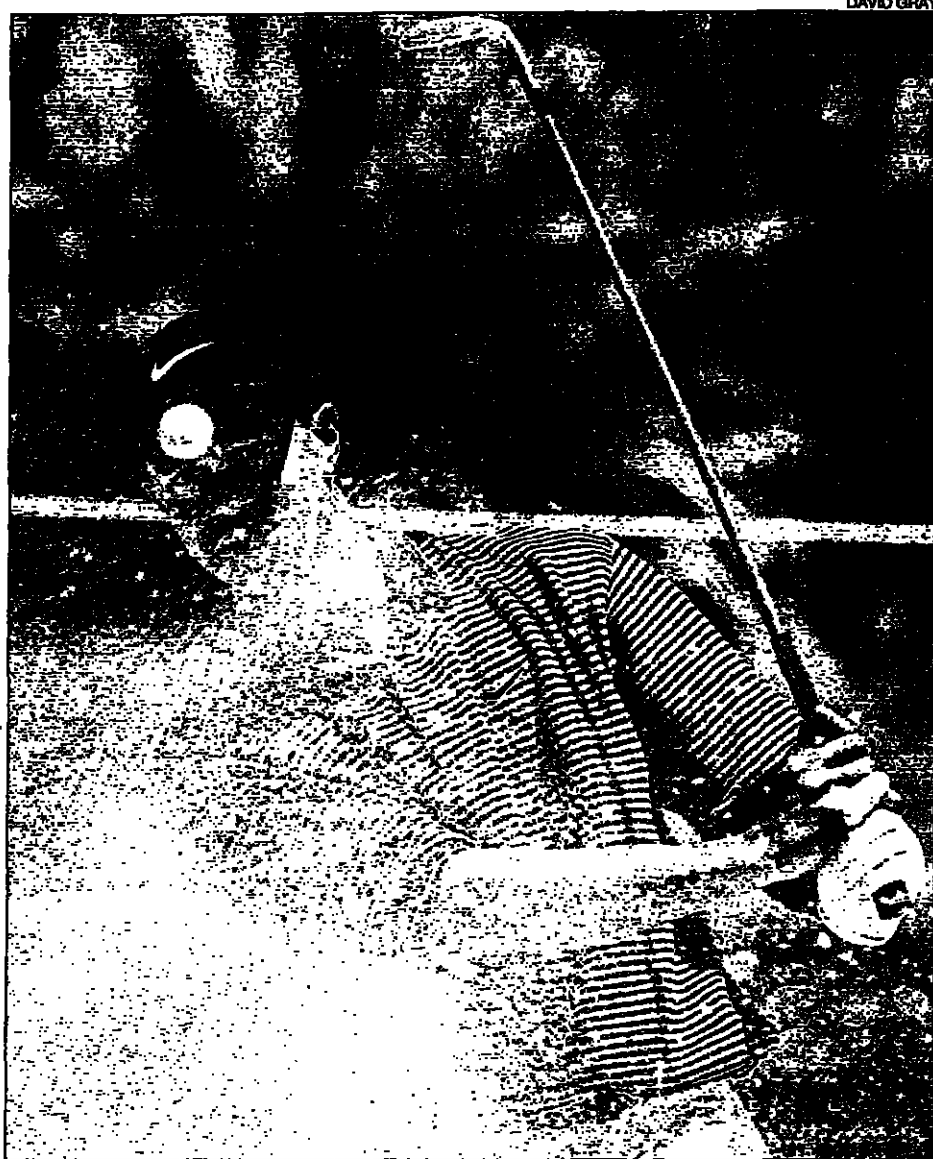
Tiger Woods is the name of this paragon and the 20-year-old American, who has won twice in his few weeks on the US PGA Tour, earning \$790,000, is the main man at the Holden Australian Open, which starts at The Australian club, in Sydney, tomorrow. It is his first trip overseas as a professional — he was paid about \$250,000 to come — and if the advance publicity is anything to go by, he was worth every cent.

Even Greg Norman, the world No 1 and the icon of Oz, has been eclipsed and he does not mind a bit. "I think Tigermania is wonderful," he said. "It's good for the Australian public. If 10,000 people watch him and just a hundred or so watch me, that's fine. Tiger's taken the world by storm and I'm going to enjoy it and let him have all the attention."

That does not bother Woods, who faced the massed ranks of the media with aplomb, answering questions with courtesy and humour. "I think all the attention is because of what I've done lately — winning my third US Amateur and doing what I've done on tour. I'm a fresh face and the media and the fans have jumped on that, but it's no big deal. You've just got to be honest and be yourself."

He was also unfazed when questioned about appearance money. "I think it's a good thing if you know that the player that you are getting is trying 110 per cent to win. I haven't come here to play for the gallery," he stressed.

Woods, who drew a sizeable crowd to watch him hit 300-yard drives in the pro-am yesterday, added: "It's awfully



Woods explodes from a bunker during a practice round at Sydney yesterday

nice that people come out and watch but I'm here to do my job."

Woods tends to win with style. Although lightly built, he hits the ball further than anyone else and the galleries gawp. He averaged 309 yards on the US Tour statistics, about 25 yards beyond John Daly, with renowned hitters like Norman, Fred Couples and Tom Watson lagging even further behind. That gets people's attention.

Then there is his colour. In a predominantly white sport, Woods is not white. He is an exotic mixture of mainly African-American (his father) and Thai (his mother). He has had hate mail because of his colour but regards that as a bonus because it means his success is making people think.

His first Nike ads made race an issue — "There are still courses where I am not welcome because of the colour of

my skin. Are you ready for me world?" — and Woods has every intention of being a force for change, to broaden the reach of the game he loves with a passion. "My parents taught me that you can't side on the grey area," he said.

This week, however, his attention is on the golf. If people's expectations of him are high, they are more than matched by his own. He had an air shot in practice — "Some of the places I put myself in, I'm susceptible to doing that," he smiled — but few doubt his ability to cope with a new continent and an unfamiliar golf course.

Twenty years ago, Norman, then 21, played in his first Australian Open at this course. He was paired with Jack Nicklaus and hit his opening drive into a bush — "Thank God it's gone now," he said — and did not break 80.

"I was nervous and everybody had built me up and I was just humiliated in front of the greatest golfer ever put on this planet," Norman recalled. "I guess I hadn't played long enough to be humble."

So far, Woods, who gave up his degree course at Stanford to play the tour, has had little to be humble about, but he is acutely aware of his good fortune. "I'm very lucky to be doing something I love to do, getting paid to do it and having all these extra perks. Not too many people when they wake up in the morning can't wait to get to their job," he said.

If he has flaws — and he is only human, after all — they seem to amount to little more than a lack of culinary adventure (McDonald's is his restaurant of choice), a degree of youthful certitude and the odd wayward drive. The world might not be ready for that.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Two codes explore new share options

By Christopher Irvine

AS THE two rugby codes forge closer links, Wigan and Wasps have held exploratory talks about the joint funding of transfer signings. Under a proposed arrangement, players will play rugby union for half the year and rugby league for the other half with the contract costs split between the clubs.

It is a proposal fraught with difficulties, not least because of doubts about the capability of players to flit between the two sports, yet Va'auga Tuigamala is one of those proving that it is at least physically possible. The dual international Western Samoa centre is due back at Wigan in January, from his loan spell in union, but Wasps want him to return next season, permanently if possible.

Tuigamala's position at Wigan, where he is contracted to stay for another two years, was the subject of discussions last week between Chris Wright, who has sunk £3.5 million into Wasps, and Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman. The idea is that, together, both clubs could attract leading players from either code, in joint deals, similar to the one in which Bedford and London Broncos now own Martin Offiah.

Wigan are also continuing talks with Dave Whelan, the owner of Wigan Athletic Football Club, about a sale of Central Park for more than £4 million, which would end the club's immediate money worries.

The Rugby Football League remains anxious to cut off the supply of players to union on short-term winter contracts next year. It hopes to achieve this by a longer season. The 22-team world club championship, which will be jointly launched today in Leeds and Sydney, will not finish until the end of October, when Australia are due to tour Britain.

Work starts today on a new £8 million, 14,000-capacity stadium at Widnes. Only the changing-rooms and boardroom at Naughton Park will survive the redevelopment. The crowd limit will be reduced to 3,500 for the first three months of next season.

Mercenaries fated to fall foul of itchy feet

Great God, this is an awful place," Captain Scott wrote in his Antarctic diary. But his problems were as nothing compared with those of Andrea, girlfriend of Emerson, one of the trio of Brazilian footballers signed by the Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson.

"The moment I saw Middlesbrough I felt it was a strange, terrible place," she said. "It seemed so dark and quiet outside and it was always windy and raining." And so she has remained in Rio, while Emerson returned to do battle with the dark.

We live in an era of globalisation and, as ever, it is sport that dramatises this truth. Thus Terry Venables, the former England football coach, has decided to follow the time-honoured route from law court to Australia.

The globalisation of sport is one of the facts of modern life: there were 197 nations present in the global Olympic Village in Atlanta this summer. The other week, India played Pakistan in a series of one-day cricket matches in Toronto, of all places.

"Nobody went to watch, of course, but they wouldn't, would they? Never mind, the odd billion or so saw the cricket on television back home in Asia. India-Pakistan cricket galvanises the sub-continent, but needs neutral ground, usually Sharjah, to dilute the hostility. The Toronto series was called, by someone with a robust if unsuitable sense of humour, the Friendship Cup.

Globalising sport means globalising its superstars, and this is a harder business. For even in the boldest of travellers, the most independent of souls, there lies a streak of the provincial, the homebody.

So poor Andrea expresses her preference for Rio over Middlesbrough and most of us who love to sneer at unglamorous provincial towns make the required jokes.

But I recall five of the strangest days of my life. I was in Rio and the weather was awfully nice, and yet I wanted, not to be in Middlesbrough, but certainly in Hertfordshire.

I was stuck in a currency collapse, unable to travel a yard, waiting for a plane to take me to Barbados for the cricket. I had no story to write, knew no one and had nothing to do. I ask for no pity, I was not even overtly miserable, but it was a long, bizarre moment of perfect dislocation.

And had you told me that if I pressed a certain button I would instantly be beamed out to Hertfordshire, I would have damn near broken my finger on it. Andrea, I in Rio and in lovely weather, foreknew your sufferings in darkest Middlesbrough.

Perhaps it is, above all, the dark that gets people. No wonder the most successful

footballing imports to this country tend to be Scandinavian: compared with their own benighted climes, places such as Middlesbrough must seem havens of light and sun and joy.

Perhaps reading a few of Strindberg's observations on married life would have cheered Andrea up. Or perhaps all she needed was a few Edward Munch reproductions: a couple of minutes daily contemplation of *The Scream* would surely make Teesside seem more like the Copacabana.

But the more satellites, telephones and jumbo jets make the globalisation of sport a reality, the greater the plague of dislocated superstars, hoted up in hotels or rented houses, with huge telephone bills and with colleagues and agents instead of friends, interviews and meetings instead of conversations.

"I pity the poor immigrant," Bob Dylan sang, "without family or friends who fall in love with wealth itself..."

And wealth, of course, is the rub. "So here, for the benefit of all superstars who are planning the next step of their brilliant careers, is Barnes's Cut Out and Keep Guide to Globalisation. And it has but a single point don't do it for the money."

This may sound a touch silly, since the reason for such a dislocating wrench is to further your career. But there are two ways of looking at a career: a purely fiscal matter, or an exhilarating aspect of your progress through life.

I was a poor immigrant myself once. Through general mismanagement and incompetence, I managed to find myself 8,000 miles from home without money or job. But I had not gone for money, I had gone for the adventure. I set off with a small sum of money; I returned four years on with rather less. But the adventure left its mark on me, it made me the bum I am today.

We can turn on the television and see sport from all over the world. Everywhere the cameras turn, they are kicking footballs, every nation looks, through the tube, to be dizzyingly familiar, the only difference the shade of green they play on. Yet the difference between place and place is as colossal as it ever was.

Globalisation is part fact, part myth, and for the athlete eager to cash in on his talent before the hamstring twangs its last twang, it can be a terrible trap. Football may be the world's Esperanto, but that does not stop footballers, and more especially their families, from being bitterly unhappy.

Go west, or east, or north, or south, young man, but only do so if you have adventure in your heart. If it is not an adventure, it is a prison sentence: for globalisation is one more brilliant illusion of the flickering screen.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Some years ago one of Zia Mahmood's "Bols tips" was "if they don't cover, they haven't got it". That was the clue to the successful line in the hand today.

Bridge hand analysis including dealer South, game all, rubber bridge, and a card layout diagram.

Contract: 3 NT by South. Lead: Five of spades.

(1) 15-17 Unless they contrive to block the suit, the defence have at least four tricks in spades, so the problem is the best way for declarer to make an immediate nine tricks. You might like to consider: a) the best technical line, b) the best psychological line, before reading on. The best technical line is to test the diamonds, finishing in dummy. If the diamonds do not divide, you need four tricks in clubs. Play the ten, intending to run it if East plays small. If the diamonds are worth four tricks, cash the ace of clubs and, if an honour drops, continue with a second high club. If only two tricks

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Elite review Today I continue my review of elite tournaments of the past which might challenge the Las Palmas event, starting on December 8, for the accolade for strongest tournament of all time.

Having dominated his rivals at the two great tournaments of 1895-96 and St Petersburg 1914, the amazing Emanuel Lasker, then 55 years old, also took clear first at New York in 1924. As at St Petersburg ten years earlier, he again outdistanced Capablanca, Alekhine and Marshall, as well as other star players such as Reti, Maroczy, Bogolyubov and Tartakower.

In the following game the great Alekhine is strategically outgunned at every stage. White: Alexander Alekhine Black: Emanuel Lasker New York 1924

Chess game analysis including Queen's Gambit Declined, top ratings, and a diagram of the final position.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard
IMAGO a. A mirage b. A Roman bust c. A perfect insect
VIRAGO a. A man from long ago b. A whirlwind c. A bad-tempered woman
GLEBOUS a. Earthy b. Fat c. A fatted ox
RHONCHISONANT a. An organ stop b. Sporting c. Shouting

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Keene - Mestel, Esbjerg 1981. White is threatened with mate in one. What is the best way to deal with this?
Solution on page 50

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

SAVINGS ON HOTELS FOR EUROSTAR TRAVELLERS

Today *The Times* has yet another fabulous offer to make your Eurostar trip more enjoyable — exclusive discounts on hotels in Paris, Brussels or Lille.

We have linked up with Cresta, the UK's leading short break specialist, to offer readers travelling on our free Eurostar ticket a choice of more than 100 hotels with a range of star ratings and prices to suit every taste and budget. You can stay for as long or as short a time as you wish and many of the hotels offer you the chance to stay for three nights for the price of two.

You could stay in Paris from as little as £23 per person per night at the Amarys Simart; a superior one-star hotel or at the world-famous four-star George V from £126 per person per night. Lille offers the four-star Alliance, a converted 17th century convent, for £43 per person per night. And in Brussels the five-star Meridien near the Grand Place is included from £56 per person per night.

For queries about your Eurostar information pack call 01293 527 222, Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. Please note that this is not a general information or booking line.

THE TIMES HOTEL DISCOUNT TOKEN 3

Form for requesting hotel discount tokens, including fields for name, address, and a questionnaire about newspaper preferences.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin, including 'School', 'Keane as F...', and '1997 Quality W...'

Meet Kevin, the misunderstood Maxwell

The BBC's appetite for having its cake and eating it is clearly growing. First, the same corporation that lavishes pomp and circumstance on every state event from Trooping the Colour down, serves up *Ruby War Meets the Duchess of York*. Now it has turned its two-faced attentions to Kevin Maxwell.

You remember Kevin Maxwell, roundly condemned a couple of weeks ago on BBC1 by Tom Bower's *Inside Story*? Well, meet Kevin Maxwell — family man, much misunderstood good egg and the star of *The Trial of Kevin Maxwell* (BBC1).

It was rather like watching a very long public apology for libel. It didn't quite begin: "Our recent programme may have inadvertently given the impression that Mr Kevin Maxwell was a crook... or finish with a reference to 'substantial damages' but, given the tone, it could easily have

Somewhere out there, there was something nasty called the media and Nadia Hagger, director and creator — on the evidence of this — of the haggardography, wanted no part in it. The media had been rotten to Kevin, you see, and that would never do.

Hagger made no attempt to answer the difficult questions that surround this case, such as how incompetent do you have to be before it becomes criminal? Or, just because Daddy says so, right? And why should she? Both these questions were settled, in Maxwell's favour, in court. Instead, she concentrated on the personalities — the ever-so-apologetic Kevin, his forthright wife Pandora and their quite adorable eldest daughter, Tilly. When Tilly Maxwell follows family tradition and takes over the world... well, if I'm not too old by then, can I be Editor of the *Daily Mirror*?

For a while it looked as if this formula would be enough. Kevin was disarmingly contrite, apologising for "mistakes, errors of judgment, bad decisions" while insisting he had done nothing criminal. Pandora, a woman of strong opinions, revealed enough waspish charm to explain why she gets on well with High Court judges and why, when it comes to a fight, you'd want her on your side. As for Tilly she was busy cheering everyone up, Mummy and Daddy had a final bow on the way "not ideal timing," Pandora observed, their sixth. "I'm pleased," said the wise Tilly, "because whether the trial turns out good or bad, if there's a new baby in the house, there won't be time to be upset." Bless her.

As we all know, the trial turned out good, which resulted in a quite interminable final 30 minutes as Hagger



Matthew Bond

tried desperately to inject some drama into a film that had long run its natural course. Unfortunately, this included a series of questions apparently designed to make Tilly cry. Now, keeping the camera running until an adult cries is par for the documentary course these days (Pandora's father duly obliged a few minutes later), but children? Shots don't come much cheaper, although the

final, post-credit, postscript — "The media continues to judge them" — came close.

Over on BBC2, the latest instalment of *When Rover Met BMW* was subtitled *A Job for Life*, a commitment which the makers invited us to take literally for a good ten minutes... until a couple of old hands at Longbridge revealed that whatever the bright bobs in personnel might say there was no such thing. "Jobs for life? No one get a job for life these days." But Rover apparently comes close, which is why they were queuing up in their thousands when Longbridge launched its first major recruitment drive for seven years.

They came — and sadly went — from all walks of life. A young sculptor, with A levels and a degree in art, proved particularly good at the "assemble a cardboard van" aptitude test but fell, unaccountably, by the wayside. Per-

haps as revenge he could cut a Rover 200 in half, immerse it in pickling vinegar and then sell it for a fortune.

We were left with Craig, whose tattoos signalled his intention to become one of the lads; Vicky, who after her first shift acted in parts that could no longer be described as spare, and Waseem, who in his enthusiasm had made the fatal mistake of believing he could do the job faster than everyone else and then — oh dear — told them so during a meal break. His trainer tearfully urged him to slow down. "As soon as you've done one car, there's another one there ready, you'll never beat this." I have a feeling the point will have been made more forcibly once the cameras were switched off.

In search of late-night diversion, I stumbled across *Lumberjacks OK* (Channel 4), a programme so

cheap that a commissioning editor ought to be feeling thoroughly ashamed of his or herself this morning. True, David "Kid" Jensen and someone called Jeremy Spanswick have been flown out to Squamish (now there's a name not to try late at night), British Columbia, to commentate and make jokes about Canadians with big choppers, but one sparsely attended lumberjack meet (a chop-in?) has been turned into no fewer than six programmes. Last night's was dedicated to just the one event, springboard chopping, which looks about as silly as 11 sounds. After another unreadable graphics, a beginner's guide to logging and a tour of the Squamish railway museum, the competition was won by Karl, who chopped his way to the top in about 55 seconds. Karl was positively being himself. "That's the way it goes in lumberjack sports sometimes." Next week, birling. Don't ask.

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST** (85558) 7.00 **BBC BREAKFAST NEWS** (Coastal) (18977) 8.00 **BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA** (Coastal) (8003981)
- 9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE** (s) (1210198) **9.45 KILROY** (s) (8752372)
- 10.30 CART COOK, WON'T COOK** With chef Lesley Walters (s) (853272)
- 11.00 NEWS** (Coastal) (2555285)
- 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW** Consumer advice series (s) (4173204)
- 11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE** St Peter Hall (s) (899056)
- 12.00 NEWS** (Coastal) (4818285)
- 12.05pm POLICE RESCUE** (s) (2526730)
- 12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW** (s) (5188077)
- 1.00 NEWS** (Coastal) and weather (19914)
- 1.30 REGIONAL NEWS** (14175914)
- 1.40 NEIGHBOURS** (Coastal) (s) (24086914)
- 2.00 CALL MY BLUFF** (s) (2117)
- 2.30 A WEEK IN THE COUNTRY** (s) (594)
- 3.00 INCOGNITO** (s) (4952)
- 3.30 ANTS IN YOUR PANTS** (8160759) **3.50 CHICKEN** (197223) **4.10 SPORT YOUR OWN BACK** (8573852) **4.35 THE QUEEN'S NOSE** (1721579) **5.00 NEWSROUND** (8276469) **5.10 BLUE PETER** (Coastal) (s) (2396469)
- 5.35 NEIGHBOURS** (s) (972310)
- 6.00 NEWS** (Coastal) and weather (223)
- 6.30 REGIONAL NEWS/MAGAZINES** (576)
- 7.00 SMALL TALK** Game show (8633)
- 7.30 HERE AND NOW** Sue Lawley and the team present stories and investigations (Coastal) (759)
- 8.00 HOW DO THEY DO THAT?** Eamon Holmes and Esther McVey reveal how Sean Connery was transformed into a dragon for his latest film *Dragonheart*. Plus, how doctors managed to save a jockey suffering from the worst injuries they had ever seen, and a chance to meet the man responsible for campaigning the British Army (Coastal) (s) (282827)
- 8.50 POINTS OF VIEW** (846407)
- 9.00 NEWS** (Coastal) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (8498)
- 9.30 THE X FILES: Quagmire** with Duchovny and Gillian Anderson on the trail of Big Blue, a legendary Loch Ness-style monster (Coastal) (s) (742391)
- 10.15 HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS** (s) (Coastal) (s) (198285) **WALES: Kame's Wales**
- 10.45 SPORTSNIGHT** Des Lynam introduces Football highlights of the Manchester derby between Liverpool and Everton. Complete coverage of the British lightweight championship. Cricket: a preview of England's tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand (s) (556730)
- 12.15am FILM: Carolina Skelton** (1991) with Louis Gossett Jr. A black US Marine officer returns to his childhood home in South Carolina, where his dying mother tells him the cops had an affair with two white girls. He vows to prove his brother's innocence (550334) **WALES: Harry Enfield and Chums** 12.45 **FILM: Carolina Skelton** 2.15 **News**
- 1.45 WEATHER** (1063533)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Televis** (2358865) **6.25 Children and New Technology** (235372) **6.50 Information Technology** (9062440) **7.15 See Hear Breakfast News** (8194730) **7.30 Petrie of Penelope** (4870477) **7.55 I'll Never Work** (730001) **8.30 Christopher Crocodile** (8724117) **8.35 Monty** (5802827) **8.35 The Record** (880320)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two: Le Café Des Rives** (1221204) **9.25 See, You, See Me** (808440) **9.45 Words and Pictures** (2030056) **10.00 Playhouse** (4903) **10.30 Numberline** (3833852) **10.45 Watch Natural History** (383117) **11.00 Around Scotland** (5164556) **11.20 Music Makers** (782702) **11.40 English Express** (8913407) **12.00 German Globe** (4814827) **12.05 Sealing Through Science** (4781372) **12.30 Working Lunch** (53825) **1.00 Geography Programme** (8535515) **1.20 Thunderbirds in Hindi** (3847740) **1.30 Healing Sound** (34136) **2.00 Christopher Crocodile** (4649204) **2.05 Monty** (46494575)
- 2.10 THE CHAMPIONS** (5519778) **3.00 NEWS** (Coastal) (822543)
- 3.05 WESTMINSTER WITH NICK ROSS** (Coastal) (8427198)
- 3.55 NEWS** (Coastal) (5642391)
- 4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY** (s) (488) **4.30 READY, STEADY, COOK** (s) (372) **5.00 THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW** (s) (Coastal) (803204) **5.40 MARY BERRY AT HOME** (s) (78881) **5.55 TURNING POINTS** (s) (873189)
- 6.00 STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION** (s) (Coastal) (s) (814759)
- 6.45 TREV AND SIMON'S TRANSMISSION IMPOSSIBLE** (s) (817204)
- 7.00 TESTAMENT: THE BIBLE IN ANIMATION** (Coastal) (s) (4575)
- 7.30 FROM THE EDGE** (Coastal) (s) (371)
- 8.00 TRUST ME I'M A DOCTOR** An insider's guide to medical matters (Coastal) (s) (3223)
- 8.30 OPEN RHODES** New series with chef Gary Rhodes exploring Scotland (Coastal) (s) (2730)
- 9.00 MODERN TIMES** The story of a beef farmer ruined by BSE (Coastal) (s) (481117)
- 9.50 THE VERDICT** Investigates the Crown Prosecution Service (Coastal) (s) (289943)
- 10.30 NEWSNIGHT** (Coastal) (124189)
- 11.15 SOHO STORIES** (s) (838204)
- 12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR** (s) (81841)
- 12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE: O.U. FAIR TRADING** (47773) **1.00 SELLING** (11421) **1.30 BUDGETING** (35599) **2.00 NEWSFILE** (45150) **4.00 ENGLISH HERITAGE** (46792) **4.30 MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS** (39006) **5.00 HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK** (84889) **5.30 THE ADVISER** (82570)

- CHOICE**
- Open Rhodes: The Highlands** **BBC2, 3.30pm**
- Successing the two fat ladies in the Wednesday cookery slot comes one slim gem. Gary Rhodes, of the spiky gelled hair, is back on the road with more carefully selected visits to the outposts of the nation. Achiltuie is more of an outpost than most, a Scottish village 90 minutes from the nearest cinema or supermarket. Rhodes's visit is also more carefully orchestrated than usual, for it so happens that Achiltuie needs a new village hall and the celebrity chef might just be able to help. If this goes on they will have to call the series *Challenge Gory*. But if the show is largely staged, managed, Rhodes's act is still joyously fresh. Not only does he cook and eat at the same time with such fluency, but Rhodes is such a likeable guy than even his generous helpings of self-praise are easily forgiven.
- Modern Times: A Pleasant Land** **BBC2, 9.00pm**
- Although Richard Atwyn's documentary progress in a low-key style and sometimes struggles to fill the space, it offers an eloquent snapshot of the effect of the BSE crisis on the British farming community. Atwyn takes his camera to Devon, where farmers gather gloomily in pubs and beams the end of the beef industry as they have known it. Even the laconic and mild-mannered Robin White becomes angrier. He must slaughter all his cattle more than 30 months old. But the abattoir is booked months ahead and appeals to the ministry get nowhere. White has to go on buying food for cows he cannot sell. At 61 he is too old to start again and cannot wait for his pension. Although a church service where, with a nice touch of irony, one of the hymns is *Think of a World Without Animals*.
- The Verdict: A Lack of Conviction** **BBC2, 9.50pm**
- After the Child Support Agency, the Crown Prosecution Service is probably the official body that gets the worst press. Do not expect David Rose's report to leap to its defence. In the country, the CPS introduces highlights of the CPS as an organisation in disarray, where morale is low and resources are too thinly spread to cope with a burgeoning workload. The result, Rose claims, is that mistakes are made, charges are inexplicably reduced or dropped, and those cases which come to court too often end in acquittals. In a word, the CPS is not doing the job for which it was created ten years ago. While crime has been going up, the number of successful prosecutions is declining. Rose fleshes out his indictment by collecting the views of senior police officers, lawyers, victims of crime and CPS insiders. The CPS, of course, has a different story to tell.

- 6.00am GMTV** (1609965)
- 9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP** (1228117)
- 9.35 REGIONAL NEWS** (2037914)
- 10.00 THE TIME... THE PLACE** (s) (97204)
- 10.30 THIS MORNING** (2403920)
- 12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS** (8412469)
- 12.30 NEWS** and weather (Teletext) (4988338)
- 12.55 SHORTLAND STREET** (s) (4956730)
- 1.25 CORONATION STREET** (s) (Teletext) (7823291) **2.00 HOME AND AWAY** (s) (Teletext) (s) (5700444) **2.25 CROSS WITS** (Teletext) (s) (57023575)
- 2.50 VANESSA** (Teletext) (s) (6834865)
- 3.20 NEWS** (493933)
- 3.25 REGIONAL NEWS** (4938204)
- 3.30 TOTS TV** (8448594) **3.40 THE SINGING KETTLE NEWS** (7378556) **3.50 ZAZZAP!** (8183381) **4.10 ANIMANIACS** (480295) **4.15 ANIMANIACS** (5567001)
- 4.40 MATT'S MILLION** (4918020)
- 5.10 WHEEL OF FORTUNE** (s) (7223049)
- 5.40 NEWS** and weather (Teletext) (498833)
- 6.00 HOME AND AWAY** (s) (Teletext) (s) (845827)
- 6.25 HTV NEWS** (Teletext) (842240)
- 6.50 SPORTSWEEK** (119575)
- 6.50 WHEEL OF FORTUNE** Hosted by Nicky Campbell (Teletext) (s) (119575)
- 7.20 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LIVE:** Manchester United vs Juventus Bob Wilson presents the crucial match from Old Trafford with commentary by Brian Moore (Teletext) (4303346)
- NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration**
- 9.30 CORONATION STREET** Liz has bad news for Steve, and Ken and Deirdre get closer (Teletext) (19827)
- 10.00 NEWS** and weather (Teletext) (32109)
- 10.30 REGIONAL NEWS** (254681)
- 10.40 CHILLER: The Man Who Didn't Believe in Ghosts** Richard and Sophie Cramer move into Windwhistle House, a Victorian mansion in Yorkshire. After a sequence of incidents, Sophie becomes convinced the house is haunted... With Peter Egan and Mel Martin (469582)
- 11.40 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS** Jim Rosenthal introduces highlights of this evening's UEFA Champions League match between FC Porto and AC Milan. Plus reaction after Manchester United's game against Juventus and the result of Fenerbahce vs Rapid Vienna (101885)
- 12.45am REAL STORIES OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL** (82151) **1.15 GOD'S GIFT** (12000) **1.45 THE CAFE** (556) **2.45 DEAR NICK** (2804044) **3.40 ANTONIO MONSIEUR: NATURALLY** (440) **5.00 5 PUMP** (9407) **5.30 COUNTDOWN** (420) **6.00 NEWYDDION** (844759) **6.05 HENO** (958833) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (105372) **7.00 POBOL Y CWYM** (256885) **7.25 DILYN CWYS** (414778) **8.00 MASH COPENHAGEN** (8391) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (4198) **9.00 WANTED** (7399) **10.00 BROOKSIDE** (711681) **10.35 CUTTING EDGE: GREAT HOUSE WIVES** (245223) **11.25 CAROLINE IN THE CITY** (216881) **12.05am HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET** (3384082) **1.08 FOUR-MATIONS: ELECTRIC PASSIONS** (8229937) **1.35 MARCO POLO NOTI** (3342792)

- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55pm HOME AND AWAY** (4956730)
- 1.25 CROSS WITS** (39512730)
- 1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE** (24090117)
- 2.20 VANESSA** (57015556)
- 2.50-3.20 OUR HOUSE** (8834865)
- 5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET** (7223049)
- 6.25 CENTRAL NEWS** (842240)
- 6.50 WHEEL OF FORTUNE** (119575)
- 12.45am BUSHELL ON THE BOX** (92315)
- 2.15 DEAR NICK** (2650860)
- 3.10 IN FOCUS** (7815976)
- 4.05 LATE & LOUD** (3008888)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55 CORONATION STREET** (4956730)
- 1.25-1.55 CROSS WITS** (39512730)
- 1.55 HOME AND AWAY** (29766391)
- 2.25 VANESSA** (57014827)
- 2.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE** (1272691)
- 5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY** (7223049)
- 6.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE** (325885)
- 6.50 WHEEL OF FORTUNE** (119575)
- 12.40am ALFRED HITCHCOCK** (6645178)
- MERIDIAN**
- HTV West except:**
- 12.55pm CROSS WITS** (4956730)
- 1.25 HOME AND AWAY** (39512730)
- 1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND** (24090117)
- 2.20 VANESSA** (57015556)
- 2.50-3.20 PERFECTLY PETS** (8834865)
- 5.10 HOME AND AWAY** (7223049)
- 6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT** (597551)
- 6.20 PUT IT TO THE TEST** (845755)
- 6.50 WHEEL OF FORTUNE** (119575)
- 10.45-11.15 MERIDIAN FOCUS** (115952)
- 11.15 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE** (156469)
- 12.15am ALFRED HITCHCOCK** (93044)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55pm CROSS WITS** (4956730)
- 1.25 HOME AND AWAY** (39512730)
- 1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND** (24090117)
- 2.20 VANESSA** (57015556)
- 2.50-3.20 HOPE AND GLORIA** (8834865)
- 5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET** (7223049)
- 6.30 ANGLIA NEWS** (632001)
- 6.50 WHEEL OF FORTUNE** (119575)
- 10.40-11.40 THE VERDICT** (246952)
- SAC**
- Starts: 7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (32865) **9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER** (89198) **9.30 YEGOLION** (871759) **12.00 HOUSE TO HOUSE** (52682) **12.30pm LIFT OFF** (20933) **1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN** (35952) **1.30 FILM: GALDALCANAL DIARY** (30655136) **3.15 THE MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW** (8838778) **4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE** (556) **4.30 ANTON MOSIMANN: NATURALLY** (440) **5.00 5 PUMP** (9407) **5.30 COUNTDOWN** (420) **6.00 NEWYDDION** (844759) **6.05 HENO** (958833) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (105372) **7.00 POBOL Y CWYM** (256885) **7.25 DILYN CWYS** (414778) **8.00 MASH COPENHAGEN** (8391) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (4198) **9.00 WANTED** (7399) **10.00 BROOKSIDE** (711681) **10.35 CUTTING EDGE: GREAT HOUSE WIVES** (245223) **11.25 CAROLINE IN THE CITY** (216881) **12.05am HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET** (3384082) **1.08 FOUR-MATIONS: ELECTRIC PASSIONS** (8229937) **1.35 MARCO POLO NOTI** (3342792)

- 6.30am TAKE FIVE** (42074) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (32865) **9.00 Here's One I Made Earlier** (89198) **9.30 Schools' Good House 9.45 Book Box 10.00 Stage Two Science 10.15 Making Sense of Science 10.45 Co-Sim in Casper? 11.07 Lost Animals 11.15 The Mix 11.30 Rai-At-Tel-Tel 11.45 First Edition (871759) 12.00 House to House (s) (82682) 12.30pm Lift Off (s) (20933) 1.00 Seamus Street (25488) 2.00 Sandbox (64937759)**
- 2.20 FILM: The Man I Love** (b/w, 1946) with Ida Lupino as a singer who goes to work in a hoodlum's nightclub to save her sister from his unrelenting attentions. Directed by Raoul Walsh (436407)
- 4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE** (Teletext) (s) (556)
- 4.30 COUNTDOWN** (Teletext) (s) (440)
- 5.00 RICKI LAKE** (Teletext) (s) (5897204)
- 5.45 ANTON MOSIMANN - NATURALLY** (Teletext) (s) (72020)
- 6.00 PARTY OF FIVE** (Teletext) (s) (323407)
- 6.50 FRESH POP** includes an interview with Kula Shaker (s) (440117)
- 7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS** (Teletext) (254223)
- 7.55 THE SLOT** (571846)
- 8.00 BROOKSIDE** How long can Ron and Jackie's relationship remain a secret? (Teletext) (s) (8391)
- 8.30 WANTED** Three pairs of fugitives play hide-and-seek across mainland Britain (s) (98285)
- 9.30 THE LOVERS** Geoffrey discovers a way out of the engagement. He applies for a transfer to Fleetwood which postpones the wedding for a year (s). (Teletext) (17489)
- 10.00 THE FRAGILE HEART** Last in the three-part medical drama starring Nigel Hawthorne. Edgar Pascoe finally faces up to the human rights abuses taking place in China (Teletext) (s) (359551)
- 11.20 RORY BRENNER WHO ELSE?** (s) (Teletext) (s) (934759)
- 12.00 WEEKLY PLANET A** discussion on the future of Russia, presented by Jon Snow (s) (193858)
- 1.35am DISPATCHES** (s) (Teletext) (s) (902578)
- 2.20 A LOVE DIVIDED** Tonight's couple whose relationship is divided by politics and culture come from Belfast (s) (267995)
- 3.20 SPIRIT OF FREEDOM: Great Expectations** in French with subtitles (s) (1218808)
- 4.20 FILM: Neath Arizona Skies** (b/w, 1934) Western starring John Wayne as the guardian of a young Indian heires whom he must protect against the unrelenting pressure of an evil gang leader. Directed by Harry L. Fraser (3017808)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**
- SKY 1**
- 7.00am Love Connection** (2380882) **7.30 Press Your Luck** (237199) **7.40 Jeopardy!** (232007) **8.10 News** (8914339) **8.30 Andrew Brown** (85232) **8.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **9.00 Real Deal** (7156407) **11.10 Sally Jessy Raphael** (803686) **12.30 Granada** (57533) **1.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.45 The Simpsons** (5643) **7.30pm A.S.N.** (5575) **8.00 Sports** (19049) **8.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **11.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **11.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **11.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **12.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **12.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **12.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **2.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **2.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **2.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **2.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **3.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **3.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **3.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **3.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **4.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **4.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **4.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **4.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **5.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **5.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **5.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **5.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **6.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **6.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **6.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **6.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **7.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **7.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **7.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **7.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **8.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **8.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **8.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **8.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **9.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **9.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **9.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **9.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **10.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **10.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **10.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **10.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **11.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **11.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **11.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **11.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **12.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **12.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **12.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **12.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **1.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **2.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **2.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **2.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **2.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **3.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **3.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **3.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **3.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **4.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **4.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **4.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **4.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **5.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **5.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **5.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **5.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **6.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **6.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **6.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **6.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **7.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **7.15 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **7.30 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **7.45 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **8.00 The Open: Why? Show** (2347876) **8.15 The Open: Why? Show** (234787

